

# METAL FORCES

No.4

80p



W.A.S.P.  
EXCITER  
STEELER  
PANTERA  
ANTHRAX  
JESS COX  
JAG PANZER  
TOKYO BLADE  
HEAVY PETTIN'  
LEGS DIAMOND  
ARMED FORCES  
TWISTED SISTER

## INTRODUCTION

Sorry about the delay in getting this issue(our fourth) out, hopefully now however you will be able to get METAL FORCES approx monthly.

To help you we are starting subscription rates, which are given below, as we know in the UK especially, METAL FORCES is not easy to get.

Special thanks in this issue must go to Howard Johnson and all at Kerrang for the write-up on us in the Kerrang 'Extra' issue a while back. We apologise for getting at Kerrang so often but when you are the No. 1 magazine in the Rock Music field (who? Them or us - Ed!), you must expect digs when you fall from normal standards of excellence.

Still, in this fourth 'underground' issue you'll find some mega-goodies especially with out exclusive LEGS DIAMOND and EXCITER feature. We've had some criticism for being too hard-core and obscure in our approach and we would welcome your comments, especially as we plan to publish Dave Reynolds's 'ANGEL STORY' in issue 5! (Anyone suggesting we include BIG COUNTRY etc will be ignored and probably put on the HELHAMMER abuse mailing list.)

Talking of HELHAMMER, we note the comments in your letter to us lads and apologise if we've been harsh with you. But remember we covered and reviewed you first and accept our share of the blame for putting you where you are today - No. 1 cult band on Earth(we'll in Switzerland at least.) Please send 10% of your royalties to our Head Office to be forgiven.

Hope you all enjoy this issue of METAL FORCES - see you soon.

## METAL FORCES HEAD OFFICE

17 LIVINGSTONE LINK

CHELLS

STEVENAGE

HERTS SG2 0EP

ENGLAND

Telephone (0438) 720797

## EDITORS:-

BERNARD DOE AND DAVE CONSTABLE

## STAFF WRITERS:-

STEVE HAMMONDS AND DAVE REYNOLDS

## CONTRIBUTORS:-

KEN ANTHONY, GRAHAM BARNELL, PHILIP DIBENEDETTO, KJ DOUGHTON, LEROY DOUGLAS, KELV HELLRAZER, GENE JUNE, SIMON PALLETT, DAVE SHAW, MIKE VERGANE

LAYOUT:- BERNARD DOE

Cover Photo:- Dee Snider (TWISTED SISTER) by Wayne Youngman.

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## METAL FORCES - PLAYLISTS

BERNARD DOE

- 1."Intruder" - ARMED FORCES (from the EP "Let There Be Metal" on Metallic Flame Records)
- 2."Total Metal" - ATOMKRAFT(US Demo)
- 3."Axe Dance" - WITCHGROSS (from the LP "Fit For Fight" on Vision Music)
- 4."Heavy Metal Breakdown" - GRAVEDIGGER (Noise LP)
- 5."Electric Shockwave" - RAPID TEARS (from the EP "Cry For Mercy" on Chameleon Records)

DAVE REYNOLDS

- 1."Northwest Metalfest" compilation (Ground Zero LP)
- 2."Metamorphose" - SORTILIGE (LP)
- 3."Third Degree" - GAMMA (from the LP "GAMMA 3" on Elektra)
- 4."Pantie Fetish" - S-DEATH(US Demo)
- 5.DEUCE(US Demo)

STEVE HAMMONDS

- 1.John Sloman(demo w/Gary Moore)
- 2."Max Havoc" - MAX HAVOC(Triple Platinum LP)
- 3."Hail To Enland"- MANOWAR(Music For Nations)
- 4."When Hell Freezes Over" - METALLICA
5. BLACK 'N' BLUE (US Demo)

DAVE CONSTABLE

- 1."Warriors" - CHARIOT(Shades LP)
- 2."Voices" - RUSS BALLARD (from the LP "Russ Ballard")
- 3."Vices" - KICK AXE (Pasha LP)
- 4."St. Vitus" - ST. VITUS (SST Records LP)
- 5."Ride The Lightning" - METALLICA (Music For Nations LP)

## ADVERTISING AND DISTRIBUTION

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All interested advertisers should contact Bernard Doe at the above address for details of rates. Adverts for METAL FORCES issue No. 5 should be received no later than 20th July 1984.

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Vocalist Rhett Forrester has left RIOT. This follows the departure of guitarist Rick Ventura who has since been replaced by G.T.Trevino. Guitarist Mark Reale has informed METAL FORCES that the band have also parted company with their management and record label and will be going for a fresh look with a sound that goes back to the old "Rock City" and "Marita" days.

As exclusively revealed in METAL FORCES No. 3 Lou Taylor (ex-BLIND FURY) is the new SATAN vocalist. The band are now based in London, where they have started work on their follow-up album to the excellent "Court In The Act" which has just been released in the US for the first time on Metal Blade Records. Meanwhile the band are changing their name to RASKALLE

PRETTY MAIDS have undergone two line-up changes. Pete Collins (guitar) and John Darrow (bass) have been replaced by Rick Hanson and Alan Delong from fellow Danes SHYLOCK. A move that has seen John Darrow joining SHYLOCK.

The sudden departure of Pete Collins resulted in PRETTY MAIDS having to pull out of the Dutch Earthquake Festival in April at short notice. They were replaced by German metallists WARLOCK.

Mausoleum Records have just released a compilation album "American Metal Prisoners" that features five US bands, TRACE, NUHAVEN, TWO TIMER, ATTILA and TAKASHI. Label bosses Alfie Falckenbach and Stonne Helmgren will be travelling to America in July with a view of opening an office there as well as signing more American acts. Interested bands should send demos and info to: Mausoleum Records, Lange Van Bloerstraat 78/80, 2008 Antwerp, BELGIUM. Mausoleum's UK label manager, David Moffitt also wants to hear from British bands: Mausoleum Records UK, 11 Sandygate Crescent, Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham, S.Yorkshire S63 7JP.

LIVING DEATH, who are apparently Germany's answer to METALLICA and EXCITER will have their debut album released on Earthshaker Records later this month. The same label will be releasing the debut album by BRAINFEVER in September.



BLACKLACE, the New York based band (pictured above) featured in MF No. 2 will be releasing their debut album "Unlaced" on Mausoleum Records later this month. The album, produced by Jeff Waxman will contain 9 tracks: "Call Of The Wild", "March Of The Black Witch", "Runner In The Night", "Damn Cheater", "On The Attack", "Born To Raise Hell", "Nightmares", "Hots For You" and "Devil In Disguise".

"New York Metal '84" is the title of a brand new compilation album released in July on Important/Rock City Records. Bands featured are WARHEAD, CITIES, TAKASHI, VIRGIN STEELE, TEASER, BLACK LACE, OVERKILL, DEATHSLAYER and FRIGID BICH.

The L.A. SLAYER will be releasing a 12" EP on Metal Blade Records later this month. It will contain three tracks; "Captor Of Sin", "Haunting The Chapel" and "Chemical Warfare". This will be followed by their new album "Hell Awaits", due out in July.

Florida's 'Total Metal' band SHIT-DEATH, described by those in the know as 'unbelievably hot' are negotiating a deal with British label Bullet Records. The four-piece outfit intend moving base to the UK shortly. Their first offering will most likely be a four-track EP featuring such 'classics' as the HELLHAMMER dedicated "Bastards Will Burn", "Lesbian Vampires" (Huh?!-ED), the OTT "Pantle Fetish" and "At Death's Door". Watch out for an exclusive interview next issue!!

East London rockers CHARIOT who were featured in the first METAL FORCES, have their debut album "Warriors" released on the recently launched SHADES label on July 13th.

Former TKO vocalist Brad Sinsel has resurfaced with LA band TYRANT who have a track ("End Of The Line", an old TKO classic) to be featured on the "US Metal Vol. 4" compilation.

Los Angeles metal act HELLION appear far from happy with the New York based band with the same name, who have recently released their debut album "Dangerous Maneuvers" (see Metal On Vinyl review). The LA band, who apparently legally own the name, are accusing the New Yorkers of cashing in on the Californians success and are advising their fans who have mistakenly purchased the album to demand their money back. "I know a lot of heavy metal fans are calling themselves HELLIONS, but naming their band after us is taking it a bit too far" commented vocalist Anne Boleyn for the LA HELLION. Meanwhile the New York band say: "Everyone in New York knows there's only one real HELLION, and it aint got no girl singer!!" Well I'm sure we haven't heard the last of this story so keep watching this space.

Meanwhile on a lighter note. LA's HELLION have announced their new fan club address where a complete line of merchandise is now available. HELLION Fan Club, 18653 Ventura Blvd. No. 307, Tarzana, California 91532, USA.



TROY

Ex-ANGELWITCH and TITAN drummer Dave Dufort has formed a new band called TROY (pictured above). The band are currently working on a 5-track mini-album.

Danish rockers MALTESE FALCON have signed to Roadrunner records in Holland and started on their debut album.

Danny Lilker, ex-ANTHRAX, bassist has formed a new band called NUCLEAR ASSAULT.

Canadian Metal Queen LEE AARON is currently in New York recording a duet with Mark STORACE of KROKUS.

Norway's TNT have just signed a worldwide management contract with Fireball Management in New York and will be starting a three month tour of North America to coincide with the release of their second album "Knights Of The New Thunder" in July.

New Jersey based metallists WHIPLASH(ex-JACKHAMMER) will be releasing a limited edition flexi-disc in August featuring two tracks, "Ruthless" and "In The Line Of Fire".

KILLER DWARFS are busy recording tracks for their second album which is expected to feature a version of the old BADFINGER tune "(If You Want It) Come And Get It".

MEGADETH, the band formed by ex-METALLICA lead guitarist Dave Mustaine have been gigging around the San Francisco area with SLAYER's Kerry King guesting on rhythm guitar. However, reports that Kerry is now a permanent member of MEGADETH have not been confirmed. More info on the band can be obtained by sending a SAE/IRC to The MEGADETH Fan Club, 436 Joshua Way, Sunnyvale, California 94086, USA.

The Texas based SLAYER will be releasing a new album entitled "Go For The Throat" in August on Rainforest Records. The same label will also soon be releasing the debut album by WATCHTOWER who can best be described as RUSH at 200 mph!

ZOETROPE the Chicago metallists featured in MF No.1, recently made an appearance on American cable TV with songs from their "Metal Log Vol.1" demo. ZOETROPE T-Shirts are now available for \$6.00(US) or \$7.50(overseas) from ZOETROPE, 7311 N.Oakley, Chicago IL 60645 USA.

French HM trio CENTURY who are influenced by MOTORHEAD, TANK and VENOM, have just released their debut single. An autographed copy plus photo is available by sending 35 French Francs to J.P.Roux, 27 rue Dauphine, 75006 Paris, FRANCE.

Fig Peter Cronin

Former ANGEL members Frank Dimino and Barry Brandt are back together in a new band featuring former RUFFIANS guitarist Jeff Lubansky. Dimino recently appeared as lead vocalist for CYCLE V on the "Flashdance" soundtrack album with the pop-rock cut "Seduce Me Tonight" not far removed from ANGEL material in the vein of "Stick Like Glue". Brandt in the meanwhile played drums on ex-ALICE COOPER guitarist Michael Bruce's mini-LP last year. The new as yet un-named outfit is managed by former TOBY associate and long-time QUIET RIOT manager Warren Entner. Punky Meadows - ANGEL's famed guitar god has moved back East to Washington DC with his band LEGEND. Watch out for the ANGEL history and a possible Meadows interview in the near future.

TOKYO BLADE's new vocalist is Vic Wright(ex-TOPAZ and BOBO). The band are currently in the studio recording their new album for Powerstation Records. On July 10th they are off to the States for a short tour of the East Coast.

KICK-ASS MONTHLY No.25 is out, featuring interviews with Ronnie James Dio and Lars Ulrich, plus features on Hellhammer, Cities, Anvil, Girlschool, Thrust, Witch-slayer and much more. Overseas metallers interested, please send \$2.50 (which includes airmail postage) in US funds (international postal money orders preferred; please make money orders payable to: Bob Muldowney). Bands looking for exposure: send any demos and/or vinyl, band info, and pix (live, if possible). KICK-ASS MONTHLY, 815 Kings Parkway, Baldwin, New York 11510, USA.

METALLIC OVERKILL No. 2 is now available. Featuring SLAYER, AXEWITCH, NASTY SAVAGE, MEGADETH, ZOETROPE and lots more. Send \$1.50(US) or \$2.50 (Overseas) to: Peter Schnell, 32 Clifford Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94117, USA.

GUILLOTINE is the name of a new Florida based fanzine. Issue No. 1 features NASTY SAVAGE, SAVATAGE, RAT ATTACK, MEDIEVAL and more. Guillotine, 653 Blairshire Cir., Winter Park, FL 32792 USA.



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# ANTHRAX

## MOUTHFUL OF METAL

PHILIP DiBENEDETTO Talks To SCOTT IAN Of ANTHRAX

The newest megaband on Jon Z's metal mafia label, Megaforce is the first NY homegrown artillery, ANTHRAX! Their debut LP, "Fistfull Of Metal" is a prime platter of power metal and stands up well with its mega predecessors, METALLICA and MERCYPUL FATE. ANTHRAX is young, energetic, and determined to make some noise in the metal underground and above. But how better to hear it, than from the iron jaws of ANTHRAX's rhythm guitarist Scott Ian.

Megaforce has a lot of great new power metal bands, but how does ANTHRAX differ from bands like METALLICA, EXCITER etc? "True we're loud, fast and thrashing but we differ because we have a bit more melody. We also have a lead singer but the main difference is the melody."

With all the Megaforce acts do ANTHRAX feel that enough time and promotion can be spent on them exclusively? "We definitely feel we are getting a good deal on Megaforce. If we didn't feel this way we wouldn't be here. There's no rivalry between bands, but if anyone, we're getting more time and promotion cause we live in NY."

Is there any ANTHRAX heavy metal philosophy? "We claim to be nothing but pure heavy metal. One of the reasons we work so hard is to bring the underground metal scene into the light and expose it to a wider audience. Then we will be taken a lot more seriously in the music world. There's only a select audience right now for not only ANTHRAX, but a lot of metal bands. Metal is the most popular form of music in the world today, but even bands like ACCEPT don't get the recognition they

deserve. There are a lot of PRIEST and SABBATH fans who've never heard of bands like us. We opened for KROKUS at the Mass. Civic Center, in front of ten thousand and talked to the people after the show. They had never even heard of Kerrang let alone bands like MERCYPUL FATE or ANTHRAX. We want to be part of the movement that will bring heavy metal into mass popularity."

Do you think that because of the fact that so many metal bands are putting out product and so much hype is in the air, that metal may fade out like Punk did some years ago? "I don't think so because metal has always been here. Some metal bands have been around for the longest time, but it's coming into light now. Unfortunately it's bands like VAN HALEN and QUIET RIOT who are opening doors, but the underground metal scene will soon be unleashed! Metal sometimes goes into dormant stages but will always be here. The Heavy Metal concept is now being looked at quite seriously with metal bands selling millions of albums."

Who are your favourite bands and biggest influences? "I have lots of favourite

bands at the moment like MERCYPUL FATE, EXODUS and ACCEPT. My main influences are the SCHENKER brothers and Uli Roth."

How was it working with Carl Canedy of THE RODS? "It was great! We were doubtful at first cause we had set our sights on someone else, and we didn't want to sound like THE RODS. But we got together for a couple of days and found him to be real happening - the greatest guy to work with. Even as far as our material, Carl came up with some good ideas. In my opinion the production on the album is great, as is Carl Canedy."

Finally, who is the mysterious Rosenfeld listed as co-writer on all of the songs on the LP? "Well, that's me for copyright reasons. Before closing I'd like just to mention that Danny Likier, the bass player on the LP has left the band and is being replaced by Frank Bello, my former roadie."

At present the band are on a 40-date US tour with RAVEN, which lasts until the end of July when ANTHRAX will be heading for gigs in Europe although unless the band gets a support slot with a major band, then the UK may have to be content with just a couple of London dates including the Marquee.

The second ANTHRAX album will be recorded in the UK during September. Produced by Michael Wagener the album will be entitled "Anthrax Kills!!" Tracks already penned include "Raise Hell" and "Armed And Dangerous". A new ANTHRAX single is expected to be released prior to the album.



Pic Mike Arwino



# E.F. BAND

The New Wave Of British Heavy Metal sprung a few surprises when it was around in force, bands were coming from everywhere. Who would have thought bands such as IRON MAIDEN and DEF LEPPARD would achieve so much world success or ANGELWITCH become such a cult band in AMERICA, or even a band from Scandinavia create such an impression on so many people after touring Britain's pubs and clubs, such a band is the EF BAND.

The band have been together since early '79, getting their name from founder members Bengt Fischer(guitar) and Par Ericson(bass). Originally they started as a three-piece with Dave Dufort(brother of Denise) on drums. This line-up undertook their first UK tour in 1980, which took in almost the whole of the British Isles. This led to the release of their self-made "Suicide" debut single on Redball Records. EMI got to hear this record and invited them to appear on their much acclaimed "Metal For Muthas I" which launched many a career as you probably well know (ANGELWITCH, SAMSON, MAIDEN etc), the track they recorded was "Fighting For Rock'n'Roll" an out and out blaster, which was very much in the same vein as the rest of the LP - Kick Ass Metal. "Metal For Muthas" also helped them to establish themselves as Scandinavia's premier metal act in the eyes of the world.

But the cookie had to crumble and Dufort left to join the aforementioned ANGELWITCH, he was replaced by Dag Ellison, who played on their debut LP "The Last Laughs On You", which was put out on Polygram and was produced by Derek Lawrence(LEGS DIAMOND) and according to the band sold very well, (especially at the HMV sale, where copies were going for 99p!) It even attracted the attention of a certain Ritchie Blackmore who let the group support them on their Swedish tour.

Vocalist John Ridge then came into the picture as Par wanted to concentrate on playing the bass. The second LP "Deep Cut" was then unleashed on the independent Iweta Records(they wouldn't tell me why Polygram didn't put it out after the success of the first LP!). To promote it they toured with SAXON all over Europe, but again musical differences occurred and John Ridge was sacked.

Mr Ridge was replaced by Roger Marsden previously heard of in DEEP MACHINE, they also added Peter Jacobson on second guitar (or rhythm as I put it) and with a stable line-up at last they are about to record their third LP which is reported to be much heavier than the previous two. After that they hope to tour Europe and America.

A note to end with. They also released two other singles, those being "Night Angel" and "Devil's Eye", both worth checking out if you have a taster of what the group is like.

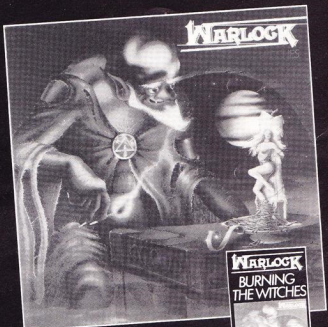
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STEVE HAMMONDS

# WARLOCK

Sensational first album

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# STEELER

## STEELIN' YOUR MIND AWAY

DAVE REYNOLDS Calls It Hypnotism On Earthshaker

As the pure pop strains of Nena's "99 Red Ballons" (which lost an awful lot in translation and heaviness in its English form) having just left the UK charts after bouncing (gasp! pant!) her way to Nummer Eins - some would claim it to be Germany's first hit in the UK since World War Two - METAL FORCES once again reveals there's more to Germany's music scene than the ex-STRIPES sangerin and her balloons.....

STEELER are Germany's newest Metal Gods, well almost. Not to be confused with the posey US and now defunct outfit, STEELER hail from Bochum, also the home town of Bullet. As guitarist Axel Rudi Pell explains they're not that much a new band.... "I formed the band in 1980 with the bass player Volker Krawczak but we went through a lot of line-up changes before the current one, although we've known each other through friends for many years, like I knew Peter (Burtz-vocalist) and Peter knew Thomas (Eder-guitarist) that's how we eventually got to STEELER as it is now."

I first heard the band thanks to Tony Jasper who aired the original version of the metal classic "Call Her Princess" on his HM show (BFBS Radio) and was most impressed. Here was a band with a good future and a good lyric-writer. I contacted the band through Tony and I've followed their progress ever since. They've now got a very good debut album out on the newly formed Earthshaker label. Are they pleased with it? "Yeah, we are. For a debut LP it's good although it's obviously got its rough parts but it's a very hard album."

The band should've just played two shows to promote this ace piece of Germanic mayhem, the first on 12th May near Bochum with LIVING DEATH as support ("They are a new German band also signed to Earthshaker with their album coming out in the summer" says Axel) and on May 31st in a real 'Battle Of The Bands' type festival with MERCYFUL FATE, BODINE, PICTURE and JAGUAR in Amsterdam. "We are planning to do a German tour in the Autumn with WARLOCK,

playing from Hamburg to Munchen (Munich). That's in September and October, although no dates have been set yet."

It often puzzles me how French bands can get away with singing in their own language and sounding all the more powerful for it, but German bands when singing in their native tongue sound rather silly - "Well it's not that difficult to write songs in English" replies Axel, "it's an international language. Bands can become more successful when singing and writing in English and it sounds much more heavier as far as German bands are concerned." So what about other German bands then? AXE VICTIMS, CUTTY SARK.... "AXE VICTIMS are very commercial, more into American heavy rock like BON JOVI. CUTTY SARK are, shall I say, hard to describe!" What about STEELER? "I think we're a cross between ACCEPT and JUDAS PRIEST". Quite a good description really. How about gigs, are they hard to find in Germany? "Not so difficult if you put them on yourself! The most difficult gigs to get are tour supports for the very big bands in the

stadiums. It's very expensive, usually you have to pay something like 5,000 DM to get the support on tours by say JUDAS PRIEST."

Your producer and mentor Axel Thubeauville has played a very big part in helping you hasn't he? "Yeah, Axel virtually took us out of the cellar so to speak. He thought what we were doing was great and reckoned we could make some money, so here we are with our first album on his new label!"

The album was recorded in January and February in Bochum and released at the end of April. It's a very hard package containing such gems as "Chains Are Gonna Be Broken", "Sent From The Evil" and the aforementioned classic "Call Her Princess", all about, well, three letters beginning with S! Was the song written with anyone in mind? "Er, no!" In other words, he wouldn't like to say! STEELER on Earthshaker - a great combination. By the way Axel, did ya like the picture of Corinne Russell I sent ya?!!

STEELER FAN CLUB -  
Finaustra.5, 469P Herne 1,  
W.GERMANY.



Pic Hucky Heppke



# KIX

## THE KIDS ARE BACK

The spring of 1981 saw the recording of the first KIX LP entitled "KIX". It is packed with raw, aggressive songs such as "Kix Are For Kids", "The Kid" and the delightful "Atomic Bomb". KIX was formed about four years ago in Hagerstown, Maryland a suburb of Washington DC. They started on the club/bar circuit, where they played cover versions of songs by the likes of AC/DC, THE STONES, ZEPPELIN and THE CLASH, which might explain why they sound almost punkish!!! After a while they got tired of playing other people's material, so they started to write their own songs and sneak them into their set, which went down a storm. Their aggressive manner of playing and their youthful energy and enthusiasm which more often than not borders on frenzy, plus their desire to have a bit of fun, KIX cornered the market. The LP was unleashed on to Joe Public in August of that year. "We used the bar-room approach in writing and recording that album," says frontman and vocalist Steve Whiteman. "We were raised in that tradition and the album was a natural extension of that experience."

KIX then toured across the US in support of the first album. They opened for NUGENT, CHEAP TRICK, TRIUMPH, PRIEST and KROKUS, taking them well into '82, where back home on the East Coast they were headline status.



June of 1983 Atlantic Records released the "Cool Kids" LP in the USA and a single "Cool Kids" backed with "Mighty Mouth" was released in the UK. This being the only UK offering to date. The LP was produced by Englishman Pete Solley whose other credits include THE ROMANTICS and STEVE FORBERT, not exactly HM.

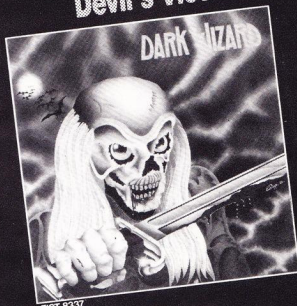
The "Cool Kids" LP represented something of a departure from the first LP. It lacks aggression and is not as raw. It's much more pop metal and it only offers us one real metallic gem - "Restless Blood" - which unfortunately is stuck on the end of side two, but the LP is aimed at a wider audience. Bassist Donnie Purnell - "We wanted to make a record that everyone could appreciate, not just if you were sitting on a bar stool, drunk. We wanted to maintain the spice and energy of our first album, but also wanted a sexier sound. There's more variety on this record and I think overall it makes it more fun to listen to." Steve agreed "Everyone will like something off this album, even Donnie's Mother!"

So there you have it, straight from the gigging's mouth. At the moment KIX are still gigging in the US, let's hope 1984 will see KIX raid these shores, and one thing for sure, this kid will be there.

DAVE SHAW

# DARK WIZARD

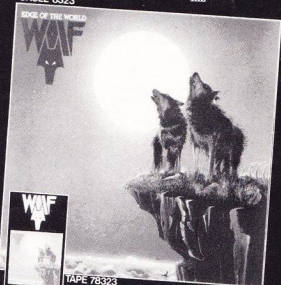
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# PANTERA Ride 'em Cowboy!



PANTERA - ahh there's a name that rings a couple of bells. THOR's wife was my first perverted thought, but no it wasn't to be in fact PANTERA are a five-piece from good ole Texas (ahh well you can't have everything I suppose). My first knowledge of this band came from Bill - Supremo of San Francisco's Record Exchange who recommended the record to me one night down the Standard whilst ROX were playing, next thing I know a T-Shirt and LP had landed on the Hammonds door mat. The first thing I noticed was the slightly gaudy cover which I must say put me off at first, but once I was inside (get down Reynolds!) the cover, the music was very interesting to say the least, they sound very KISS like in origin (check out the first song for a Detroit Rock City riff), but still it is a good platform to work from, the title of the record (ohh!) "Metal Magic".

PANTERA were formed in the summer of 1981 with as they put it "The ultimate intention of becoming a major force in the world of Heavy Metal", fair sentiments indeed. The group is made up of Terry Glaze on vocals and guitar, Darrell Abbott on guitar, Rex Roker (groovy name) on bass and Darrell's brother Vince on drums, who all come from Texas. The group seem to be one of the new breed of bands coming out of Texas with their root firmly in Metal rather than the usual boogie that MOLLY HATCHET and THE OUTLAWS turn out (other Texans to watch out for include the awesome HELSTAR and average SLAYER). PANTERA describe VAN

HALEN, SCORPIONS and MOTLEY CRUE as their major influences but by their own admission "We aren't out to emulate anyone on record or when we play live, we all draw from the same energy force - Heavy Metal".

They are still based in Texas, where their main support is. At first "Metal Magic" was only available locally, but just recently it has been picked up for major distribution by some pretty large companies, so by the time you read this it should be in most Metal orientated shops, now it is widely available. Support should grow through this, which points well for the future and a video has just been completed for use on MTV ("Nothin' On But The Radio") which if it's shown, should gain much needed support from major labels (look at RAIL, they won a best new band video and have now landed a plum deal with EMI America). At the moment they are in the process of recording their second LP entitled curiously "Projects In The Jungle" which should be out in the near future, but until then they will start building on their support by opening for bands such as NIGHTRANGER, DOKKEN and the highly overated QUIET RIOT (have you noticed how "Mental Health" sounds like DEF LEPPARD's "Let It Go"?). Anyway any further news and METAL FORCES will bring it to you first of course - oh and they don't sound like METALLICA and ANTHRAX. HEADBANGERS BEWARE!!

For further info contact:- Eld'N, 2310 Raper Blvd, Arlington, Texas, 76013 USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS



# WARLOCK

## WITCHKILLERS

One of the most promising new bands to emerge on the metal scene in 1984 has to be Germany's WARLOCK.

The band were originally formed in September 1982 from various other bands playing in the Dusseldorf area. Vocalist Dorothee Pesch joined the band from SNAKEBITE, but she had gained her first public singing experience in a white smock as a member of the Dusseldorf Cathedral Choir! A far cry from the black leather and studs of heavy metal.

In November, 1983 Dorothee together with Rudy Graf(guitar), Peter Szigeti(guitar), Frank Rittel(bass) and Michael Eurich(drums) signed to the Belgium based Mausoleum Records and immediately went into the studio to record their debut album "Burning The Witches". The album was released earlier this year and contained some excellent high energy metal cuts like "Signs Of Satan", "Homicide Roker", "Metal Racer" and "Hateful Guy" highlighted by Dorothee's powerful vocal performance over a hard driving rhythm provided by the rest of the band.



WARLOCK have already won a large following on the European circuit playing regular gigs throughout Germany, Belgium and Holland where they recently appeared at the Earthquake Festival in Kaatsheuvel near Eindhoven. They are hoping to play some British dates soon, probably later this summer.

For more information on WARLOCK write to: WARLOCK Fan Club, c/o Micro Schmidt, Kamper Str. 6, 4000 Dusseldorf, GERMANY.

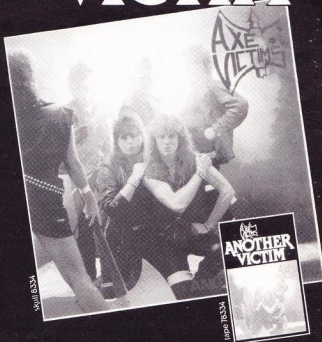
KEN ANTHONY

# WARLOCK



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# HEAVY PETTIN'

## The Petting Of America

The longer I'm involved in the music industry, the less it seems I know. Take this for example:

When I first heard the debut album by HEAVY PETTIN', I couldn't wait for it to be released in the US. It seemed to me that this was the perfect blend of hard rock, heavy metal and a touch of commercialism to set the American FM AOR stations on their ears. Yes, this would be the album that would spice up the FM rock stations that have been wimpy for so long. But again I was wrong.

HEAVY PETTIN' had been in the US for ten days and had just arrived in Houston for a headline show at a local club. I invited Hamie, Punky, Gordon and Brian down before their show, so we could talk about why American radio isn't treating them right.



How do you like America so far? Punky- "America, I love you!" Gordon- "We've hardly been here a fortnight, but I can already say I want to come back again. Everyone we've met so far has been nice to us." Punky- "We would have been over here earlier this year, but the record company postponed the release of the album, because they wanted a different album cover."

Why did Polydor change the name of the album? Punky- "I have no idea." Hamie- "We actually thought it was called 'Lettin' Loose' over here until we were at Polydor's offices last week and we saw the LP." Punky- "It was a real surprise."

How is the Polydor label in America treating you over here? Are you getting a push from them? Hamie- "At the moment it's just so-so, but the promise is that it will get better and better as it goes on."

I find it hard to figure that some bands can put out 7 or 8 good LP's and never get airplay and die a slow death, and then another band can put out one mediocre LP and get massive airplay and make it big virtually overnight. What I guess I'm trying to say

is, I have yet to hear any HEAVY PETTIN' on the two quote-unquote 'Rock' stations in Houston. Is it like that all over the US? Hamie- "That's what we're trying to figure out as well from Polydor. But they're gonna come through." Punky- "Although we've only been over here for a short time we must admit we're learning every day. But we have been told that major radio stations are very picky on what they add." Gordon- "We are being added to somebody's play-list every day. Our video of 'In And Out Of Love' is being run on MTV, on medium rotation, so that means it's being seen nationwide three times a day." Hamie- "For some reason, Texas was one place that Polydor was apprehensive for us to play at. Our LP is not selling as well down here as it is out on the East Coast."

But even against Sir Polydor's wishes, HEAVY PETTIN' played several dates in Texas, and even tho' it was not a full house in Houston I thought they went over very well.

It's a long road they still have to travel, with each town ahead. I have no doubt that they will win over many fans and friends. That's the kind of people HEAVY PETTIN' are, very amicable. But, it's gonna take a lot more than that to win over commercial radio. Let's hope Polydor Records is ready to go to bat for them.

MIKE VERGANE

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# EXCITER

## STAND UP AND FIGHT

BERNARD DOE meets the Heavy Metal Maniacs

Together with METALLICA, Ottawa's EXCITER have been mainly responsible for the current trend of power metal now sweeping the headbanging globe. So it seemed fitting that both bands would make their debut live UK appearances together on the same bill with THE RODS on the "Hell On Earth" tour, but as you are all no doubt aware, the entire British tour together with numerous dates throughout Europe were cancelled due to poor advance ticket sales.

The three members of EXCITER: Dan Beehler (drums/lead vocals), John Ricci (guitar) and Allan Johnson (bass), had arrived in London the very day the UK dates had been scrapped, so when I met up with the band a few days later the first thing I asked them was if the disappointment of having the tour cancelled had changed their attitude towards the British audience? Dan: "No, not really because we are well aware of the present economical situation in Britain and there's currently a lot of tours going on with bigger bands. So when a band like EXCITER come over with only one album ("Violence And Force" on the Music For Nations label) that is domestic in Britain, it's very hard for a band like us to sell tickets. The kids just don't have the money to go to every show that's coming through. So it doesn't change our attitude as far as Britain goes, because we know we have a following here and if the kids had the money we know that they would be out there headbanging."

Were the band happy with the latest album "Violence And Force"? Allan: "Yeah. Although the first album opened everything up for us, "Violence And Force" is so much better. Better produced, better writing and everything."

What was it like working with THE RODS drummer Carl Canedy, who produced the album? Dan: "Great! Carl's very easy to work with and he's a great producer. If the band had any suggestions then he was very open minded. In the past we've had real asshole producers that say - "Oh no man, it's done like this, you don't play your guitar like that and tune your drums like this..." - but Carl knew that we knew our music better than anyone else so he let us do what ever we wanted to do, and we've come up with a product that we are all really pleased with."



DAN BEEHLER

EXCITER's first album "Heavy Metal Maniac" was actually a demo tape which had found its way into many a tape traders collection long before the album was officially released. Had this worried the band? Dan: "Yeah, we freaked out! At first we were really mad that our tape was getting around and we didn't think anyone would buy the album, but in the end I think it helped us in a way. Let's face it the underground

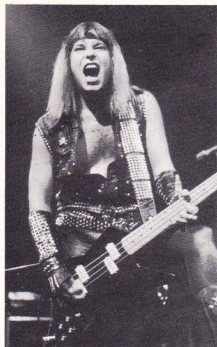
metal world is what made EXCITER what it is today."

"Heavy Metal Maniac" was released in the US on Shrapnel Records but then EXCITER split from the label after being offered a better deal from Johnny Z's Megaforce Records in New York, but what was the situation like in Canada at the moment in terms of getting record deals? John: "Well our music has always been extremely hard to market in Canada. Initially when we got our demo tapes together, we did go knocking on Canadian doors." Dan: "Yeah, and they slammed them in our face with comments like - "You're too fucking heavy - get lost"... "You guys suck"... "ANVIL's the greatest man, so forget it"... - but we kept forging on and said we would go and get signed in the States, which we did, and now we're getting recognition over here and our second albums doing well, these Canadian companies are starting to turn their heads and say - "EXCITER! Yeah, we like those guys" - but I say to them - Fuck You! Where the hell were you two years ago."

"The club scene is Canada at the moment is full of new HM bands, but there's no band there who have really reached the stature that we have. We're not big and we're not small, but in that inbetween stage, where we're treading on ANVIL's heels. But it's great that we've got all these other bands coming up like RAPID TEARS and KRAKEN because maybe it will click in the heads of Canadian record companies that HM is getting better and will start pushing some of our acts."

How about the heavy metal audiences in Canada? Dan: "When we played L'amours, Brooklyn in New York the place was sold out with crazy head-bangers who just love our material. Canadians are almost there, but we don't get the

Pic Wayne Archibald



Pic Wayne Archibald

ALLAN JOHNSON

same reception as we do in the U.S. They're just too laid back and don't wanna move in case someone sees them."

Well EXCITER did manage to play one gig during their short stay in the UK. That was at a packed Royal Standard in London promoted by Shades record store. Unfortunately the PA the band used that night was one of the worst ever used at the venue, but despite the appalling sound all EXCITER fans present, including myself, obviously enjoyed the Canadian trio's set of pounding metal. As usual there was the 'slag off' comments from the liggers at the bar, when instead they should have been praising the band for carrying on despite the sound problems and playing a full set. Lesser bands would surely have cut it short rather than risk their credibility. So full marks to EXCITER.

Live EXCITER certainly give 100% effort and demand the same from their audience as well. John: "We get the audience involved in every tune we are playing. It's not like - we are the band, you are the audience - we don't have that kind of communication. We mingle right with the audience and they like the personal attention. A lot of bands neglect that; they play their tunes and that's it." Dan: "They're there to make noise and scream and we give them their chance. We want to see the audience perform as much as they want to see us perform."

It's true the band's albums contain a lot of over-dubs especially from guitarist

John Ricci, but as a three-piece they certainly don't suffer live. John: "No, we're one band that doesn't miss the rhythm guitar that much. I think it's just the chemistry of the band. The rhythm sections very good and they fill in a lot."

Also there's the incredible vocals of Dan Beehler, but doesn't he find it difficult playing drums and singing together? Dan: "I find it difficult sure and I find it a challenge, but it's just something I've developed. What you hear on the album is what you hear live. I write to what I can do on the kit, not just in the studio."

As I said earlier, with METALLICA, they have certainly set a trend in fast paced metal but how will it develop from here? Dan: "Sure, it's good to play fast but the rhythm section has got to play together. In a lot of up-and-coming bands all the drummer does is play as fuckin' fast as he can with the bass player following him and there's no rhythm section. Well that's where we draw the line, we like to play with a heavy beat and a heavy rhythm section."



Pic Wayne Archibald

JOHN RICCI

Well they certainly don't come much heavier than EXCITER and hopefully it won't be too long before they return to these shores and give the rest of Britain and indeed the whole of Europe a taste of the Violent Force.

# EXCITER

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# LEGS DIAMOND



## MEAN AS HELL WITH A TOUCH OF CLASS

METAL FORCES own 'Satin Peacock' Kev Hellrazer talks to LEGS DIAMOND'S Jim May.

Well boys and girls the worlds best undiscovered band LEGS DIAMOND are back; and after four years without vinyl they've returned with a monster of a mini-LP "Out On Bail". So classic is this new vinyl outing; it makes recent releases by: BON JOVI, JOURNEY, CONEY HATCH, PAT TRAVERS and ICEN look sparse in comparison.

Originating from the West Coast with a line-up of Rick Sanford-vocals, Michael Diamond-bass, Michael Prince-keyboards, Roger Romeo-guitars(who replaced first guitarist Donovan McKitty) and Jeff Poole-drums. The band signed with Mercury to produce two classic LP's "Legs Diamond" and "A Diamond Is A Hard Rock". The band began a steady climb upwards. Clocking in thousands upon thousands of miles on the road. Opening for the likes of KISS and stealing audiences from TED NUGENT. The third LP "Firepower" was recorded for Cream Records and although it's a massive commercial achievement; it seemed a mainly record company influenced LP. Despite producing the underground classic "Underworld King".

LEGS fourth and most recent LP "Out On Bail" was recorded for Target Records. Hailed as the groups finest effort yet, it features: Michael Prince-keyboards, Rick Sanford-vocals, Jim May-guitars, Jeff Poole-drums and(the most recent addition replacing Greg Chaisson) Mike Christie-bass.

I recently spoke to guitarist Jim May and the first subject that was raised was what the band thought of the current press they're getting in Britain? "It's real great; I read the album review in Kerrang and it's the best album review I've ever read. I just can't believe I'm a part of it, it's incredible. I've also heard we're on the front of Kerrang, which just really knocks me out."

How's the LP selling in America? "It's doing OK in America. In fact we're pretty excited about it. We're getting a lot of airplay on the radio stations and generally a lot of interest. We're gonna follow this up by doing a showcase at The Country Club and then we're gonna tour the USA and hopefully cover as much of the country as we can. It's upto LEGS to follow the interest up and not just sit back and let it take its course."

Who are your favourite bands and what are your influences? "I like bands such as SCORPIONS, VAN HALEN etc. My favourite guitar player after me is Eddie Van Halen. I also like Trevor Rabin. I used to like Michael Schenker but he's not so good these days."

What sort of sound do LEGS go for live? Because a lot of US bands come over to England

and try to convert to a more Heavy Metal sound than they have back home. "Yeah, we've heard of bands doing that. Basically LEGS goes for a hard biting sound - I like to really 'Kick Ass'. Overall LEGS goes out to sound authentic. Mike Prince's keyboards are just out of this world. We have a whole dimension that other bands don't even consider. Synthesizers and stuff like that. That's the way the World's going, it's a computer age. We also have the added modern sound of Jeff Poole's, electric symmons drums; which he incorporates live with the rest of his standard drum kit."

Do you play numbers like "High School Queen" and "I've Had It With You" live? "Well, we have and every once in a while we'll play them again. What we're trying to do is to keep playing the new stuff. To be honest with you; the best song we've ever done we haven't even finished writing yet!! We're getting better all the time and reaching musical peaks as a band. Tracks like "Woman" represent this and we'll always play them, 'cos we love them so much. We've got to keep moving and doing new material."

In a recent interview you said that before as RAGDOLL, you did a few dates with W.A.S.P. However from what I gathered you weren't impressed by them. Was it the image? "Yeah, we did a few dates with them, but as far as I'm concerned it's LEGS DIAMOND that I really believe. We have a concept, whereby our music rises above Heavy Metal. When the HM fad has gone, the Hard Rock and Roll bands like: SCORPIONS, RUSH, VAN HALEN - they'll still survive. Yeah, as I said before I'm too into LEGS to notice W.A.S.P. or their image."

Which leads me to the question of what image LEGS have live? Because in a recent interview it said that you may use the old gangster image? "We go on stage basically as we appeared on the cover of the LP. We decided not to go on with the 'gangster' image as we wanted to update the image a bit. The old black tie image is good; but it's not very visual."

What do you personally think of the early LEGS DIAMOND as an outsider? "I love the early stuff, I play the LP's a lot and it was real good when I joined the band back in early 1980, because the band were still playing the early songs. Some of my favourite songs live are part of the old band. I love - "Rock And Roll Man", "Woman", "Tragedy", "Rat Race" and most of the others."

"Firepower" the third LP was a little too commercial for my taste. The LP was basically a record company creation. Songs

like "Help Wanted" are not really LEGS DIAMOND; sure the song was recorded, but it wasn't the bands idea. Rick Sanford, the vocalist really hates the song; but I understand they did it once live before I was in the band."

It is understood that Rick Sanford has a wild onstage/offstage image to go with his unbelievable voice. To say that he's the best vocalist of all time would be an understatement. According to one scribe - Derek Oliver - Rick virtually kicked down the door and ran out screaming. Definitely LEGS alternative to Dave Lee Roth. Would you say this is true? "Yeah, Rick's a real wild man and his voice is unbelievable, he blows most of the famous singers away. You mentioned Dave Lee Roth - well I really rate Dave Lee but Rick is up there with the best of them. I really rate Rick high on my list of singers."

What are ex-LEGS members Roger Romeo and Michael Diamond doing now? "Roger's been hanging around town and playing in small bands that were mainly New Wave influenced. As for Michael, I'm not really sure about what

he is doing. I've been talking to friends and they say he's been here and there concentrating mainly on writing and stuff. We are still on good terms with Michael, even though everyone thought LEGS was his band because of his second name."

Finally, Rick Sanford was the last member to join out of the original band. Up until then the band was known as RAGDOLL and was fronted by Timothy Eaton. When did the transformation back to LEGS take place? "There was some interest for us to tour last year, people were asking "Where's LEGS DIAMOND, we'd sure like to see them?" We then got a call from a booking agency Jam Productions. Incidentally, Joe Miller of Jam ended up signing us a management deal. He put a tour together and we all decided to join back up and did a tour. After doing the tour we all decided how wonderful it was and how much fun we were having and so we stuck together."

So there you have it, the reformation of a classic band. Destined to climb to the top. Go out and get "Out On Bail" 1984's number one LP

# JESS COX

Third Time Lucky Says STEVE HAMMONDS

Jess Cox as you may well know, was one of the founder members of the TYGERS OF PAN TANG, who were one of the original fore-runners of the much missed New Wave Of British Heavy Metal. The one LP ("Wildcats") he managed to do with them even got into the Top Twenty, but soon after that success things began to fall apart and he left the TYGERS to be replaced by Jon Devrill. Jess then went on to form LIONHEART with ex-MAIDEN guitarist Dennis Stratton and numerous 'name' (I use that term very loosely) musicians such as Rocky Newton. LIONHEART only managed one gig with that line-up, because Jess left again (or was he pushed?). Now after a year or two in the wilderness he has appeared as a solo artist with an LP "Third Step" released on Neat Records.

I firstly asked Jess on a surprisingly good phone line from Newcastle (trivial!) was he pleased with the LP? "Yes, since I had last been at Impulse Studios with the TYGERS the equipment has improved a tremendous amount. We recorded the record over two weeks at different times because it is such a busy studio we just did it when we could be fitted in. Most of the material had been written over the last three years, so there was no question of just going into the Studio and writing while we were there. I had arranged all the tracks as well, so they were ready to be recorded straight away."

It seems a bit funny you going solo after all this time and always previously being in bands? "Well I went solo for a few reasons. I never got on really well with the TYGERS, too many stars, the old syndrome. LIONHEART was much the same, we went down well at the first gig, but we started arguing as soon as we finished the show, Dennis wanted to be the

new BOSTON and I wasn't really into that". What did you do next? "I became a Life-Guard at Whitley Bay for a while, in fact I still do it in the summer. I put together a band just to do charity gigs, and that was about it until the end of '82, when I was approached by one of the REVILLOS, Max Atom (the guitarist), to do a track which ended up on "Heavy Metal Heroes Vol. 2". Then I decided to do some solo stuff."

Do you think you've improved since your days with the TYGERS and LIONHEART because songwise anyway you seem to have steered away from the typical riff sound? "I just wrote the lyrics for the TYGERS, to a typical format, now I'm getting away from that verse, chorus thing and trying to be more varied. I mean I don't think I could ever write a riff song ever again after the TYGERS. I'm trying to get a more rock sound like BIG COUNTRY, U2, a more melodic sound, those bands are accepted by everyone, HM fans to New Wave fans." Were you surprised at the response you've got from the LP and singles? "Yes, I was, I had expected to be lumped in with all the other metal acts, but most people took the LP in the way it was meant to be taken."

Since our interview Jess Cox has been playing a few gigs around the UK including a date with METALLICA at the Marquee and a video of the single "Bridges" has been shown on MTV creating an interest from America.

If you haven't done so already I suggest you grab a copy of the album or soon to be released single "One In A Million". Till then I'll leave you with Jess' philosophy of life "BE DIFFERENT!!"



# Armed Forces

## READY FOR THE ATTACK



With Heavy Metal currently reaching new levels of popularity in the United States, it's not surprising that there are so many new exciting American metal bands rising out of nowhere nearly everyday. One such band are New York's ARMED FORCES.

Although the band was originally formed back in 1980, it's only now that they have come to the attention of the global metal world following the recent release of their excellent debut mini-album "Let There Be Metal". Surely the essential Metal On Vinyl purchase of 1984 so far.

Lead guitarist and songwriter Michael Manne is the only founding member still in ARMED FORCES, a line-up that also features Tommy Bolan(guitar), Steven Tetro(bass), Joey 'Thunder' Cussamano(drums) and the incredible vocal talents of Screamin' Scott Brofa who opens new frontiers in modern day metal vocal styles.

Musically the band have all the excellent qualities of PRIEST, MAIDEN and the SCORPIONS all rolled into one, along with all the power and energy that a majority of today's younger metal bands possess. A prime example is their track "Intruder", which has to be on a par with METALLICA's "Whiplash" as the ultimate power metal classic of our time. But having said that anyone who's heard the album will know that these metallist's are more than

just another "speed is the essence", thrash 'n' crash band to toss under the Power/Death Metal category. Songs like "The Nightrider", "Rock'n'Roll City" and especially "Tease Me" show that ARMED FORCES are fully capable of mixing melody with power without wimping out and still remain a creditable heavy metal band.

ARMED FORCES have constantly gigged around the club circuit for the past five years. They started out by playing their own original tunes but later went through a phase of doing JUDAS PRIEST and IRON MAIDEN copy shows - a feature that seems a very important part of the New York club scene. However, the band soon returned to playing a totally original set and immediately gained rave reviews from the local press.

Earlier this year the band signed to the newly launched Metallic Flame label and began recording the aforementioned mini-album. "We signed with Metallic Flame 'cause they promised to give us a lot of attention. What with ARMED FORCES being their first band" explains Michael Manne. Well let's hope that Metallic flame stick to their word and promote the band 100% because I honestly believe that ARMED FORCES deserve to be huge. Let the Force(s) be with you!

Contact: ARMED FORCES c/o Louis DiMauro, Astro Productions, 2535 65th St., Brooklyn, New York, 11204, USA.

BERNARD DOE

# TOKYO BLADE

## BLADE RUNNER

Dave Reynolds scribbles furiously whilst TOKYO BLADE's Andy Boulton talks faster than Zola Budd can run!

**TOKYO BLADE.** The name means little to a British Metal fan. Why? Because your average UK headbanger is only concerned with the new IRON MAIDEN or AC/DC or WHITESNAKE album. The TOKYO BLADE legend means sweet F.A. In Europe it's a different kettle of fish (non-Pugazi variety thank-you) "In places like Holland we are like MEGA. God's even! I don't mean to sound big-headed but it's just unbelievable. In this country though it's like banging your head against a brick wall. It's hard to get tours or press attention unless you happen to be in RATT, W.A.S.P. or MOTLEY CRUE. It's only thanks to magazines like yours that we are starting to get the name known and you sell mostly to America! It's ridiculous, it really is."

I spoke to Andy on a crackly telephone connection virtually on the eve of their first french tour, playing support to MAMA'S BOYS (no doubt in my mind who'll have the more audience support!) - the big one though is yet to come. They've got the support slot to VAN HALEN in Paris, when Dave and Co are over in Europe during the summer.

"That's down to the management and record company that we've got that, it definitely is the high point for us. VAN HALEN are the number one band for me."

Andy is the sort of bloke you could hold a conversation with about almost anything. One of metal's Mr. Nice Guys he believes passionately in TOKYO BLADE and HM in general. Some might compare him with IRON MAIDEN's Steve Harris in this respect, but, er, like don't mention MAIDEN when it comes to comparisons in musical style. "If we sound like MAIDEN then it's tough titty! We aren't going to change our style just because some idiots

at Kerrang! think we're MAIDEN clones because we've got twin guitars. I used to like MAIDEN when Paul Di'anno was with 'em but they've never influenced me. The last album they did was just rubbish, metal by numbers stuff (Here! Here!-DR). We've NEVER ripped them off or any other band. My favourite band is VAN HALEN so I suppose some people will start comparing us to them next, but we're gonna carry on doing the things we've always done."



ANDY BOULTON

**TOKYO BLADE** started life as a band called KILLER and released a promising demo in 1981, but changed the name to GENGIS KHAN releasing a double-pack indie single just prior to obtaining their current moniker and signing to the York based Powerstation label. "What happened was we put out this single and had been talking to major labels but with nothing ever happening. Anyway we were going to start our own label and put out an album. When we were getting distribution for the single we spoke to a guy at Stage One who liked our stuff and no sooner did we put the single out than he had

formed Powerstation up in York and signed us up."

What did Powerstation offer you that others didn't? "Freedom of choice really. They're a small label but with a lot of money behind 'em. Other indie companies want you to put all the money into it whereas Powerstation are willing to put up the money for everything we do. With a major label all they give you is an advance and if they don't believe in you then you're onto a loser from the start because you have to pay back the advance and then the problems start, but Powerstation totally support us, they've been great."

Quite recently the band have recruited ex-DEEP MACHINE bass player Andy Wrighton (replacing Andy Robbins) and sacked vocalist Alan Marsh, the latter a surprising move. "What happened? "Unfortunately Alan has never had confidence in himself, he could never deliver what he's really capable of because of nerves. I don't have any intention of slagging him off 'cos he's a great guy and he's a good singer, he did an excellent job for us but in the end the pressure was too great for him. There's no ill-feeling between any of us, it's just one of those sad facts of life."

"We've just got a temporary singer in for the French tour, a lad from York. He's adequate for this thing, but not as a permanent member so we're still looking."

What about the rumours that ex-TYGER Jon Deverill was going to join? "He was very interested at first but we turned out to be too heavy for him! He's wimped out a lot and also he said if he joined he'd want this and that so in the end we said no, so he's not joining TOKYO BLADE."

What are you doing regarding your second album and the American release of the first LP (on Combat). "Well the first album will be different in its

Pic Eric de Haas



US form as a few tracks will be changed. "Liar", "Tonight" and maybe "On Through The Night" are off and the likes of "Mean-streak" and "Highway Passion" are being put on instead. We didn't really want to put "Tonight" on in the first place but the producer persuaded us to keep it on. Our second album should be out in June. (Titled "Night Of The Blade") Obviously the vocals will have to be re-done but it's a 200% improvement



ANDY WRIGHTON

pic Eric de Haas

as regards production."

With plans also for a video shoot utilizing the director who made DEF LEPPARD's "Pyromania" and ELTON JOHN vid's, TOKYO BLADE are well on their way. Along with BLACK ROSE, AVENGER and SATAN they're opening up an even better Newer Wave of British Heavy Metal that promises to be more exciting than the last.... Maybe they'll get a colour feature in "That So Called Metal Magazine" yet!

# SOUND BARRIER

## Break Down The Barricade

Los Angeles, one of the fashion cities, has over the years, brought host to the HM/HR fraternity an acceptable number of outstanding bands - okay, so maybe you were aware of that, then you'll have no problem coming to terms with the fact, that over those years, the city has been building an unforseen reputation of sheeling out some of the hottest Metal acts so eagerly snapped up by the major labels; Hence, things look very much on the up and up if you sound as good as you look... But, there is always that exception to the rule!!

SOUND BARRIER, who were formed in April 1981, are a HM outfit who released the LP "Total Control" on the MCA label. They are the first all-black Metal act who've signed to a major label... five months after the coming of this present line-up: Bernie K-vocals, Spacey T-guitar, Dave Brown and Stanley E - drums and bass respectively - and for those who have sampled "Total Control" it is quite evident that Heavy Metal/Rock is the bands forte. A superb catalogue of Hard Metal ranging from emotive to sleazy to fire-packing, where soulful vocals, blistering but colourful lead breaks and, a stoking rhythm section gel to make the LP an event; not just a happening!

"The Red And Black Attack", the band's colours for '84 where fans are encouraged to wear them at their concerts, originally they went under the moniker CALOUR, who were in fact an R'N'B band, but it was the rock injections of Spacey Tracy that determined the present genre of the band. Tracy had always wanted to form his own Heavy Metal band, an ideal incited by the influences of Blackmore, Hendrix, Rhoads... etc, and so moved to LA, leaving his hometown Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

He was soon to find out that prospects weren't that different from home, where R'N'B sessions seemed the only alternative for a black musician. However, a year later, he was asked to join the 7-piece CALOUR.

The impetus toward the demise of CALOURS two-year existence came thru' the writing of more rock orientated songs which left only Bernie K and Spacey T to form SOUND BARRIER, with Dave Brown who joined the former just prior to the split. Keith Roster completed the original line-up on bass in 1979, but at that time SOUND BARRIER's music could then be

related to 'Progressive Heavy-New Wave'; until two years later, Stanley E replaced Keith Roster; Finally, the Red And Black attack was on!

Unfortunately, their contract with MCA (at the time of going to press) has not been renewed. This is quite ironic as I feel that the success achieved thru' the sell-out of the debut (10,000 copies were pressed), said they should be contested by another contractual inking. Still, they do have plenty who still believe in what they, SOUND BARRIER, are doing; especially the Californian music press who are affording rave reviews: BAM, Music Connection and Billboard being some of the credible publications who are giving the thumbs-up to an innovative young act. Not content with that the need for further exposure has been the instigation of a self-financed self-produced video - "Rock Without The Roll", taken from the LP, and among those has received airplay on MTV.

On last thoughts... this bands style strives on diversity, which could be the reason why some will find it not so easy to take to them. Their style cannot be bracketed in the same way as their compatriots which, in a way, puts them ahead of most. And I don't think it could do any harm for any to make that effort to catch up!!!

LEROY DOUGLAS



SPACEY T

DAVE BROWN

BERNIE K

STANLEY E

# TWISTED SISTER

Simon Pallett talks to Dee Snider and J J French

What sort of material did the original TWISTED SISTER play? Dee-"The original band, in 1973, was playing BOWIE, ALICE COOPER, MOTT THE HOOPLE, LOU REED and T.REX songs." J.J.-"But we never, ever did any KISS material or NEW YORK DOLLS material, 'cos we always felt they were peers of ours. It just so happened that they got together at the same time we got together." Dee-"I remember the story about the time when TWISTED got an opening slot for MOTT THE HOOPLE, and KISS weren't even signed then." J.J.-"Yeah, I went down to see them at rehearsal and Gene Simmons came up to me and says 'We're doing a showcase gig, what are you doing?' 'So I say 'We're opening for MOTT next week.' and he said 'Oh no, man how did you get that gig' so I said 'Hey, we're gonna make it real big' and he says 'Yeah, well we are too.' Well, look what happened." Dee-"THE DOLLS were supporting MOTT in the city the following night so it was very much a peer sort of situation. The other bands just got luckier. Jay really picked a lot of rotten apples to join his band." J.J.-"Yeah, but you know I'm gonna have the last laugh, that's what makes it all so much fun for me. KISS just barely creeps along now and THE DOLLS have all splintered."

Dee-"Anyway, when I joined the band it was still kind of a rock thing. We were still doing some BOWIE, MOTT, LOU and STONES." J.J.-"This is a point we really should stress here. At the time Dee joined the band, we were forced for economical reasons to play cover material 'cos we couldn't afford to pay the P.A. and light companies without it."

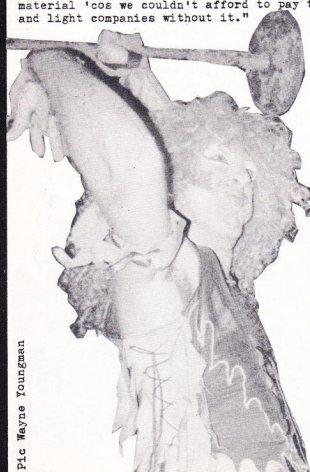
Dee-"After I'd been in the band for a while we left the rock scene behind and went more towards Heavy Metal. We started doing SABETHA, PRIEST, AC/DC, OZZY. We've got no shame though. People sometimes asked us how we could play cover material, but it's music we like, so to me there's no shame. I love those bands. The shame is when you're playing music you don't like." J.J.-"I never thought that playing other people's material if you liked it, was a sin. THE BEATLES spent practically their first three albums playing other people's songs. What we did was, we played material along the lines of which we would write. We never really covered other people's songs anyway, we always did our own versions of them. If you've got any of the bootleg tapes of us doing other people's material, then you'll know it always sounded like a TWISTED SISTER-sized version of those songs. They never sounded like the originals." Dee-"Also, people say what a great band we are 'live', but if we hadn't done the cover material that enabled us to play 5 nights a week for 5 years straight, then we wouldn't have had the experience with audiences to be as good as we are today." J.J.-"At one point I think we did 300 shows in a year, and we did a run of 5 nights a week that lasted about 200 weeks. Things were very ridiculous. Our last real vacation was in September 1978. Since then we have been non-stop playing and recording."

When did the band's image start? J.J.-"From the beginning it was always a glam type look, but that changed a bit when Dee joined." Dee-"Yeah, I'd just split my band HEATHEN. HEATHEN was an ALICE COOPER band in the purest sense. We wore make-up, but it was monstrous make-up and everything was black leather and studs. So when I joined, the original TWISTED glam thing fused together with my monstrous ALICE COOPER HM image and what you got was a monstrous band wearing feminine glam style make-up."

J.J.-"The band used to have so many different looks. We had a saying: 'We looked like women, talked like men, and played like motherfuckers', 'cos sometimes we would look more effeminate just to shock more people. If you looked at a photo history of the band, you would see them in so many different approaches of make-up and clothing to stun the imagination, as to possibly cloth 500 different bands. We tried every possible way of doing it."

Dee-"Also, at the beginning we would do ludicrous things that actually hurt the band. We would wear such feminine things that even though on stage we were extremely heavy and aggressive, in photos we would camp it up and just loon and people would look at these pictures and go 'Oh God!'. We thought it was funny at the time, but after a while we finally realized that we had to stop doing this 'cos people looking at the pictures would just get the wrong impression and it was hurting the band."

J.J.-"In 1973 and 74, the original lead singer and I used to be chained together with





big leather collars and we used to be dragged through the night clubs by this big bouncer. I remember one night, Michael (the original vocalist) and I went up to the microphone to sing the chorus of a BOWIE song and I wasn't grounded on my guitar and I got a ground lube that went through my guitar, through my lips, through the PA, through the chain, through Michael and we got a chain shock that was so unbelievable." Dee-"It was a great stage effect." J.J.-"Dee and I tried that act a few times as well, but we learnt to unhook ourselves before we went up to the microphones." Dee-"The band did anything for a goof and we got some vicious reaction, and we really had to learn our lesson."

Are you going to keep your present image? Dee-"We have no intention of changing it at this point. Our manager hopes we will, but it's worked this far so.... The negative stuff about our image usually comes from people who don't like TWISTED SISTER anyway, so why should we do anything to appease them. The fans seem to understand and they seem to like it, so I don't think you'll be seeing the image change."

How long does it take to put your make-up on? Dee-"It varies for each member. I like to say two hours. It takes me and Mark the longest, but if we hustle and do a sloppy job, then we can do it in about an hour. It takes A.J. and Eddie about 45 minutes each and J.J. only about 15 minutes."

How did the American tour go? J.J.-"Well, the South-West tour was a success, but it wasn't something that was easy to do. We slogged it, we travelled in these little rent-a-cars. The shows we did with KROKUS and BLACKFOOT were far from sold out, for various reasons. We came on to the tour at the last minute, so there was no advertising for us and also "You Can't Stop Rock'n'Roll" was not being endorsed as the greatest piece of vinyl by our record company Atlantic. What happened was, the reactions we were getting, from people who had never seen the band before and from the Atlantic reps was getting better from gig to gig." Dee-"We were really kicking ass." J.J.-"Anyway, the reaction was getting more and more intense and the reps were going "God, why isn't Atlantic spending time telling people what's going on here" and by the time we hit Los Angeles we were really in the groove and knew exactly what to do with our 30 minute opening slot. The L.A. show was amazing, the Atlantic office couldn't believe it and called the New York office and said "You've got to get your shit together - this band is really doing it." Then we did our own shows in Denver and Texas and they were incredible and in those couple of weeks our album jumped 60 places from 182 to 124 on the Billboard chart. A while back nobody knew what was going on and now everybody knows us, so it was very successful, but very hard."

What sort of set are you playing there now? Dee-"The same."

What about the article in Sounds claiming that you were playing "Rock Of Ages"? Dee-"Yeah, people actually believe that shit. First of all, if we still played covers then we probably would play "Rock Of Ages" 'cos it's a good song, but fortunately we're not and the only cover we're doing now is "It's Only Rock 'n'Roll", and everything else is our own material. I don't know why Barton let that be printed, it's kind of weird!" J.J.-"I think somebody was pissed off because Atlantic US wouldn't pay for a Sounds reporter to come over and cover the tour and so as a retaliation they printed this kind of shit which reflected badly on us."

Have any British venues complained about your act? Dee-"No, nobody has ever complained at a venue, except for TV of course." J.J.-"Yes, there was one time. The New York City Police Force were right there and we were sent a message "One more word you say will lead to your arrest." Dee-"Oh Yeah. We believe in what we stand for - we shut up!!"

J.J.-"You can't keep TWISTED SISTER quiet, except at the threat of arrest! On the South-West tour, we played in the Bible Belt of America. The Osmonds lived next door. A Mormon Church was on the other side of the venue and there wasn't a peep from anyone - Marie was probably singing along! When we played Donnington, the head cop came up and asked me for my autograph. He thought it was a great show!"

Are you pleased with Atlantic? Dee-"Yes, in a way, Atlantic saved us from the scrapheap. Phil Carson, who signed the band, also signed AC/DC, YES and a couple of unforgivable bands. He believes in what he sees, and he put his faith behind TWISTED SISTER and there isn't anybody gonna tell him he's wrong and Atlantic have done everything for us and as a result, things are starting to happen all over the world." J.J.-"If I can get a little bit serious here. I think what TWISTED experienced could be experienced by any band that takes what they do seriously! What we've seen and what we've experienced as a band proves that if you're interested in what you do and you're really hell bent on success, and you're there and you watch the people involved, then you will not have the problem that generally record companies 'suck'. Here's Atlantic, a corporation with just as bad a reputation as anybody else, but when they see us working and killing ourselves, in return, they work and kill themselves. There is just as much chance that we will fail like anybody else, but we have a very personal association with Atlantic. We're always there, we're always on top of everything, they see this and they want to make sure our fans are taken care of, and that's the way it should be!



Pic Wayne Youngman

# JAG PANZER

K J Doughton talks to Mark Briody

Without a doubt, JAG PANZER could very well prove to be the premier US heavy hopefuls of the new year. This Colorado-based unit's monstrously heavy "Tyrants" EP gave many a pleasantly astonished listener a more-than-adequate HM fix and reigned as the year's heaviest (aka best) EP. The band's debut album, "Ample Destruction", will soon emerge as their latest vinyl extravaganza, and will carry on in the fast'n'furious tradition of the EP. The disc will also host the talents of newcomer Joey Caffoia, who will handle lead guitar chores for this highly promising outfit.

Alongside Caffoia, the JAG PANZER personnel roster is wrapped up with guitarist Mark Briody, bassist John Tetley, skinsman Rick Hilyard, and one screamer of a frontman in The Tyrant. Originally a cover band, JAG PANZER slugged through the local club circuit for roughly two years before securing a heavier musical stance in 1981.

Says Briody, "The whole concept behind the band changed when I borrowed a copy of the 'Castle Donnington' LP to hear APRIL WINE or something. Then I heard it and was amazed that RIOT and SAXON blew everybody else on the album away! Then I went to California and saw RIOT mentioned in a magazine. It was NHRM, which I bought before freaking out and calling Brian Slagel. He turned me on to ANGELWITCH and soon the whole band were listening to bands from the hardcore spectrum."

Eventually, the band penned up a slough of original numbers and recorded a string of demos that became progressively better, although claims Briody, "We didn't even really know how to play back then." On the fifth try, in the November of 1982, the band conjured up a two song effort consisting of "Battlezones" and "The Crucifix".

"We weren't even going to do anything with 'em until we found out that Andy Banks of 'HM Times' magazine lived here in town. We took him the demo and he freaked out. He was

going to California the next month, so he took the demo with him - by the time he came back, he had two contracts for us, one from Metal Blade and one from Azra. The Metal Blade one didn't offer a full-colour cover and the royalty was less, so we took Azra."

After numerous delays, the EP was released onto an unsuspecting world and amazed the heavy metal underground with its abrasive, grinding edge, balls-out speed, and a certain British-inspired sound that reminds this listener of METALLICA-cum-MAIDEN. "Battlezones" is the stand-out cut with its over-the-edge deliberacy and rip-roaring speed, but "Metal Melts The Ice" is just as intensive with its grinding hypnotic riff and commanding vocals akin to Dio or Dickinson.



MARK BRIODY

Even after such a crowning achievement, the band are aiming for much higher levels of supersonic supremacy. As a result of persistent auditioning, aforementioned new recruit Joey Caffoia has joined the PANZER and is touted by Briody as being of the 'Yngwie Malmsteen calibre! "At the auditions he blew us away instantly", proclaims Briody. "Guitar death on the spot."

Hence, the album. Ah yes, "Ample Destruction" should be the best vinyl outing of the

early year, containing a variety of previously unreleased entities of the crunch-crunch variety. According to Briody, "It's got everything from 'Fast As A Shark' - tempo tracks to a song called 'The Crucifix' which is seven minutes of doom laden, evil music. We feel that no US band has ever done a god-like horror song right; MERCYFUL FATE does 'em great and SABBATH as well, but no American band has ever done it, so this will be the first."

"We tried to skip all the bullshit on this album - all the building up. What you hear on this album's gonna be a lot more polished and will be a good representation of our future sound. We want to set our standard now, unlike so many bands who start pulling a commercial change on you slowly with the first four albums."

Did I hear someone say commercialism?

"The only thing that is more accessible (than the EP) will be the sound quality. There are one or two songs a bit more lightweight, but to counter that there are six others that will blow your balls off!"

The band's live career has been erratic and unsteady, but this is due to lack of financial backing and mobility. The group did, however, recently stage a one-off in local Colorado Springs which, with the exception of a few minor faults, went well. "One problem was that people had a hard time accepting the music. I mean, at one point we even had a guy come up and ask us to play a JOHN COUGAR number! Also, most of the bangers in Colorado are 17, so they couldn't get into the club."

I can only hope that the entire headbanging populace of the worldwide 'Metal Force' will soon be privileged enough to witness JAG PANZER live, for I'm sure this premier HM powerhouse will soon be treading a long-remembered path across the metal minefield in no time at all.

Pic: Todd A. Caudle



# METAL ON VINYL

## KICK-AXE

Vices  
(Pasha)



We could be talking top five here, when it comes to summing up 1984's metal releases. This is a stunning debut by Canadian band KICK-AXE, who play some of the most infectious pop-metal I've ever heard. Dwarfing amateurs like QUIET RIOT and RATT in this field, KICK-AXE are making a strong bid to storm the US LP charts with their Anthemic Rock.

Literally every song on "Vices" is memorable. From "Heavy Metal Shuffle" the ultimate cliches herein, through the title track, the blues metal (hear George Cristous vocals to see what I mean) of "Stay On Top" and side one's closer - the slower "Dreamin' About You" and the mega "Maneater" (this must be a single for sure), the band stamp their mark of class on the HM world.

Side two opens as side one closed-in style with "On The Road To Rock" another ideal choice for a single whilst the remainder of the LP is in the same classic vein, the last track "Just Passing Through" being most memorable straight out of the MOTLEY CRUE song-book.

So, a stunning debut and along with TT QUICK, KICK-AXE become my tip for 1984.

DAVE CONSTABLE

## JAG PANZER

Ample Destruction  
(Pre-release tape)



Having dealt the initial blow with their promising debut EP last year, Colorado's JAG PANZER return for the kill with this full length album.

Since they recorded the "Tyrants" EP the band have definitely matured musically helped a lot by the addition of a second guitarist - Joey Caffola. JAG PANZER resist the total thrash approach and opt for the more complex MAIDEN/PRIEST like class metal with twin-cranking guitars and wide ranging powerhouse vocals in the Bruce Dickinson mould.

Highlights of the nine tracks are "Harder Than Steel", "Cardiac Arrest", "Reign Of The Tyrants" and the high adrenaline rocker - "Generally Hostile". However, the best is saved for last in the shape of "The Crucifix", a

metallic epic that gradually builds up from its ANGEL choir type intro to a menacing doom laden assault on the eardrums.

There are a couple of low points. The opening tracks "Licenced To Kill" and "Warfare" are not as convincing as they should be. But on the whole "Ample Destruction" succeeds in living up to its name and as a result the next JAG PANZER album should be nothing short of a classic.

BERNARD DOE

## ARMED FORCES

Let There Be Metal  
(Metallic Flame)



This mini-album is the first vinyl release from this New York band and an excellent debut it is too. ARMED FORCES play the sort of metal that grabs you by the throat submitting the listener to a barrage of intense mayhem, guaranteed to sort out the true metal maniacs from the wimps.

The title track "Let There Be Metal" could well become a metal anthem, centered around a menacing heavy riff that builds up to a titanic frenzy reminiscent of RUSH's "Grand Finale" from "2112".

"The Intruder" is undoubtedly THE HM track of '84 beginning with a haunting keyboard intro ("Into The Darkness") before quite literally exploding into the ultimate power metal frenzy of all time, with vocalist Screamin' Scott Broffa's incredible high pitch vocals making the likes of Rob Halford and King Diamond sound like Lemmy!

In comparison "Tease Me" could almost be a different band sounding like a HM version of the US mid-seventies THE RASPBERRIES. This is excellent commercial metal, which shows that ARMED FORCES are determined not to be labelled another thrash band by producing high quality metal whether it be of the hardcore or more widely acceptable variety.

The other track on this excellent platter is "The Nightrider", a powerful rocker slightly spoilt by the rather pathetic backing vocal harmonies during the chorus. Still a minor criticism when you've just discovered one of the most exciting metal bands of the eighties.

BERNARD DOE

## GRAVE DIGGER

Heavy Metal Breakdown  
(Noise 08-1670)



"Heavy Metal..." is a bloody good debut, giving this fan 80% of pleasurable music with a fixed smile on his face, as he found it quite easy to dismiss the poor 20%.

It's also quite evident that ACCEPT are the flavour for the moment - how long is always uncertain - respected by most and influencing lesser established acts in their respective musical field, and while this debutant catalogue GRAVEDIGGER's genre of HM, there's no mistaking the Udo Dirksenheider vocal passages, even tho' Chris Boltendahl's octave level is somewhat lower. You'll also find that a few of the bands arrangements hint at the aforementioned.

Firstly, it never ceases to amaze (or aptly, amuse) me when Metal acts waste their energy and vinyl space trying to write ballads. Whatever the initial stage, the end product is always abysmal - GLORY BELLS take note; and while they may have a good ear for immense Metal tunes i.e. "Headbanger's Man", "Heavy Metal Breakdown", "Back From The War" etc..., ballads are not within their reach: Hence the unprofitable "Yesterday", the other 'pits' stop is "Heart Attack", which, while attacking in the fluent vein of the major material doesn't really possess the characteristics shown by the others.

But as I said these are non-events which are soon forgotten once the aural poundings of "Tyrant", "We Wanna Rock Ya" and "2000 Light Years From Home" assault the nervous system, where GRAVEDIGGER's forte lies in sheer power and, climatic enthusiasm, sacrificing any tell-tale signs of technical approach, and while it's true that this style of HM is derivative it has to be pointed out that it isn't the aim of the GRAVEDIGGER's of this world to find new avenues, instead, they vie for the throne of "The Headbangers Delight", a status much enjoyed by METALLICA.

Lastly, I can say that this will be much appreciated by the "Bang 'em Hard" merchants who'll lap it up by the spadeful.

LEROY DOUGLAS

## WRATHCHILD

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Stakk Attak  
(Heavy Metal Records-HMR LP18)

Fresham's 'Shokk Mutants' finally make their way to LP status and waddy know; even Kerrang likes 'em now, not to mention Messers. Doe and Constable. Personally, I can't see what all this sudden special interest is all about. WRATHCHILD have always been serious rock'n'roll and they should have always been taken seriously. This LP just confirms it.

Starting with show opener "Stakk Attak", it's clear from the beginning that Robin George has given the boyz an original sound to put 'em up with the majors. An absolute classic is the only way to describe it and "Trash Queen" makes mince-meat of its "Stackheel Strutt" version. From the squeals of ecstasy to the ripping of dresses, "Trash Queen" has it all. If you like SWEET then you'll love WRATHCHILD. "Shokker" follows and believe me I was looking for the Simmons/Stanley playing credits; some great drum pounds from Stix man Eddie Starr. "Kick Down The Wall" closes side one in true 'CHILD mayhem style. A rock'n'roll party all the way.

Side two opens with "Alright With The Boyz", a brilliant version of the GARY GLITTER classic, making the original sound like it was recorded in 1968. The electronic drums give WRATHCHILD a new dimension and bring this into the computer age in style. "Sweet Surrender" should be WRATHCHILD's new single. It's certainly a side of WRATHCHILD which I've never heard before, harmonic guitar, JOURNEY type backing vocals. It puts an end to the question of whether glam bands can play or not. "Law Abuser" follows and to me it's the LP's best track. The thudding bass, the SIMMONS-type growls from Rocky-Shades. A real great production on this song, makes it really stand out. LP closer "Wreckless" is a real stormer; this song really does blow their US counterparts away. W.A.S.P. and Crue take note. Some excellent lead breaks as well from Lance Rocket.

So there you have it. Together with LEGS DIAMOND's LP, this has to be the album of the year. All WRATHCHILD need now is big finance. So, anybody out there with an inch of sense and money should back these boyz; because their gonna be massive.

KELV HELLRAZER

## T T QUICK

TT Quick  
(Avalanche-Megaforce)

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TT QUICK! This 5-track mini-LP burns, it is so hot. Comparisons are not the order of the day, they are hard and above all they are incredibly powerful. I hear rumours of members of MAIDEN jamming onstage with them in the recent past - if this is true, I hope Harris and co were on top form, since I would imagine these guys kill live.

The LP has no duff tracks, each being a classic in its own right. From the blistering onslaught of "Go For The Throat" (pure power-metal) through a blistering cover of "Fortunate Son" to the slower but immense "Child Of Sin" the first side is remarkable in that it is so commercial, but so, so heavy!

Side two is incredibly even better with two all-time metal classics in the rifferama of "Metal Man" and ultimately the near death-metal of "Victims" (believe me that title sums up the listener after such an onslaught!) I'm willing to place money on TT QUICK being unable to follow up this release with anything near as good, but I hope I'm wrong. (This record should if there's any justice in rock'n'roll make them huge anyway).

Essential - absolutely essential.

DAVE CONSTABLE

## MARINO

Target  
(SMS Records-SP28 5099)

8

This is the first full length album by this 4-piece Japanese metal outfit. Their debut vinyl release was the inclusion of 3 tracks ("Impact", "High Flying" and "Shake Down") on the "Battle Of Metal" compilation album.

MARINO possess a very European influenced metal sound similar to that of the SCORPIONS and the opening 3 tracks "Midnight Believer", "Outlaw" and the fast rocking "Impact" are well up there in the same class as the German metallists. In comparison the slower "I Can Do" Nothing For You" is built around an almost reggae beat.

Each of the MARINO instrumentalists are given a solo spot: Bassist Manabu Kamada on "West Long Ditch Man", drummer Jun Itakura on "Panic" and lead guitarist Raven Ohtani on the title track "Target".

Side two opens with the long and somewhat boring plodder "I Want You". The commercial "Step By Step" is none too

clever either but the fast paced "Roll To Death" tilts the scale back in the right direction highlighted by Raven's excellent Ulrich Roth-like guitarwork. The more laid back "Rising" close the album in fine style.

So a promising debut which will hopefully get a European release. MARINO can certainly give the likes of LOUNNESS and EARTHSKAKER a run for their money.

BERNARD DOE

## STEELER

Steeler  
(Earthshaker-Powerplay)

9

Along with the immense release by death-merchants GRAVE-DIGGER this has to be amongst my favourite Euro-releases this year.

Very reminiscent of ACCEPT and PRIEST in places these guys really motor along sometimes even at ANTHRAX speed, and even though the German accent on the English vocals sounds ridiculous in places - who cares. (I mean KLAUS MEINE gets away with it!)

Some of the songs are a bit unoriginal, but they are all powerful with plenty of rhythm guitar to fill out the sound.

So go out and buy this now, even though Dave Reynolds gets a name-check on the cover (is he crawling again - Ed.), it pisses over other Euro-stuff like the SCORPIONS latest.

DAVE CONSTABLE

## TORMENTOR

Night Of Shadows  
(Mausoleum Records-Skull 8344)

6

These Belgians adopt a US commercial AOR sound but unfortunately the quality of material here, is way below par. To these ears songs like "Goddess Of Love", "Recompence" and "The Joker" sound like a third rate BON JOVI.

The inevitable ballad comes in the form of "Hell Is For Children" which compared with many of the other tracks, isn't all that bad. However, "Mean Advice" is ruined by a nauseating keyboard sound throughout.

TORMENTOR do produce two worthy songs to their name. Those being the heavier "Night Of Shadows" and the fast'n furious "No They Ain't Gonna Catch Me" but overall I'm afraid this is not one of Mausoleum's better releases.

BERNARD DOE



## SNIPER

Open The Attack  
(Electric Ladyland-011)

A live album this, which is pretty hard to believe as apart from maybe the last track on each side there's little if any detection that the Japanese outfit are actually performing in front of an audience. Still what this album lacks in atmosphere is sure makes up for in the sheer power and energy of the music.

Having gained the services 'for one night only' of MARINO's ace guitarist Raven Otani, SNIPER have produced one hell of a debut album.

It's heads down from the word go as the title track comes blasting out of the speakers in almost pure metal fashion. A superb opener this, matched only by the frenzied "Never Change" and the final cut "Fire".

The lead guitar soloing is breathtaking throughout, highlighted on "Dedicate" and "Black Rain".

The remaining tracks "Over The Sky", "Hard Time" and "Nemurenu Yoru" may lack the classic potential delivered by the aforementioned numbers but it doesn't take away the excellence of this album.

At present SNIPER are no more than a club band back home in Japan, but if the band can get it on a studio album as well as they can live, then it wouldn't surprise me in the least to see them leap-frogging over fellow countrymen LOUDNESS, BOW WOW and EARTHSKAKER in the Jap metal popularity stakes.

BERNARD DOE.

## TAIPAN

Breakout 12" EP  
(Bullet Records-Cont 3)

This was first released in Australia back in October 1982. But although it was originally recorded almost three years ago this EP still stands up well alongside present day metal, and fully justifies its debut UK release.

Each of the four tracks - "Breakout", "Lady", "Tired Of You" and "The Cellar" - are of equally high standard and are certainly the fastest and heaviest slices of metal to come out of Australia, proving not all Aussie RM/HR bands sound like AC/DC (ROSE TATTOO, HEAVEN etc.).

Definitely an essential addition to any serious metallists collection.

BERNARD DOE

## SYAR

Death Before Dishonour  
(Mausoleum Records-Skull 8308)

After seeing SYAR totally wipe-out label compatriots WILDFIRE whilst supporting them at the Fulham Greyhound recently, I was looking forward to hearing their debut vinyl platter.

Unfortunately, the band that live struck me as the most youthful and energetic since the emergence of PRETTY MAIDS, fail to deliver on the strength of this offering. Not being a stunningly produced LP for a start, it falls into the 'average British Metal band' mould with strong but highly unmemorable riffs being abundant and originality being sparse on the ground. The band cry out for a live production of the type Darryl Johnson at Ebony gave SAVAGE, since raw-power bands such as SYAR need a live sounding edge to further their cause.

As an LP "Death Before Dishonour" is quite average, as a band SYAR are a mighty powerhouse and with a new singer and new material as witnessed recently they have fame waiting just around the corner I'm sure.

DAVE CONSTABLE

## CUTTY SARK

Die Tonight  
(Mausoleum Records-Skull 8339)

The Deutsches Kriegsmarine of Heavy Metal strikes back with molten Metal Force(s). After the mega four-track dosage that was "Hard Rock Power" (re-released by Mausoleum by the way) here's the fully fledged album. Not quite as brain destroying as fellow 'kraut-killers' STEELER, CUTTY SARK certainly go for the throat though. Blasting off with "Stupid Lies" the album is driven along by Uwe Gossmann's Steve Zodiac style Axe attack. A classier VARDIS? Could be tho' CUTTY SARK rely more on melody and metal than boogie and T.REX. I don't like the mix for Conny Schmitt's vocals on this album, they are less clear than on "Hard Rock Power" and therefore you can't hear what he's singing.

"Die Tonight" has a weird live feel about it and spoken lyrics in a less than terrifying voice until Conny starts shrieking the chorus. I don't like this one much. Might get a bit of radio play tho'. "Vultures In The Air" is more of the same, slightly heavier though with a distinct SABBATH streak to it. At 7 minutes 57 seconds it's a bit monotonous and difficult for a non-SARK fan to get into. It's

a good track when you get used to it after repeated plays. Side one ends on the 'Go For Death' "Jam To The Ramp" the albums weak link. Poor in comparison to the other tracks.

The strange guitar intro at the beginning of "Hands UP" makes you wonder whether you've got it at the right speed. Good slice of pop-HM, very catchy... get ready "Hands Up! Hands Up!" (or "...Hande Hoch! Hande Hoch!") "October Holidays" benefits from a MAIDEN-like introduction whilst "Down and Out" is good gutsy rock'n'roll shock the CUTTY SARK way. "Die Tonight" ends off with the rather morbid "Burning To Ashes". For their first full blown album it's a great attempt but I'm afraid to say it guys but STEELER win on this occasion, seven stars is just short.

DAVE REYNOLDS

## BLACK ROSE

Boys Will Be Boys  
(Bullet)

ROSE's ace four-track EP and previously released indie single wet my appetite for the arrival of this album and I'm not disappointed. British Metal bands are really getting their shit together now. From the opening onslaught of "Boys Will Be Boys" to the closing delirium of "Knocked Out" I was playing the bedroom tennis racket handed axe hero - it's been quite some time since I last felt like that over a British metal album (Good tho' it was GRIM REAPERS album wasn't quite so kick-ass) BLACK ROSE are gonna be Metal Gods as the yanks would say! In the hands of a more experienced producer that'd be all the more certain. Vocalist Steve Bardsley has a voice well-suited to this sort of metal, at time he sounds like a throatier Sean Harris and particularly shines on the aforementioned "Knocked Out", the frantic "Just Wanna Be Your Lover" the gem of a ballad "Baby Believe Me" and the bass driven "No Point Runnin'" (on the first ever single backed with "Stand Your Ground" also on the album).

"Boys Will Be Boys" is easily the best thing Bullet have put out so far and should be investigated immediately. It may have to all intents and purposes been given the thumbs down by Mr Barton in that certain other magazine, but how many of you, like myself, gave up on KISS long ago? BUY.

DAVE REYNOLDS

## HELLHAMMER

Apocalyptic Raids  
(Noise)



So the band Bernard Doe has made a legend in its own lifetime has at last got a vinyl release. (I hope you lot are grateful to METAL FORCES for your new found fame!)

So, are HELLHAMMER as drastic as Bernard makes out. Well to be perfectly honest - no! They are far, far worse. This has got to be the grossest, most appalling pile of shit in metallic history. "Apocalyptic Raids" consists of four absolute abortions - three of which sound the same and have nothing to do with music as we know it. Titles are irrelevant - since who knows or even cares what these guys are craping on about - it's so awful.

It's not even tolerable in Punk terms, I mean at least your average Punk band can play a bit, (some like DISCHARGE are even brilliant!) but HELLHAMMER - woe, woe, you are noise - fast noise I admit. Even the first track on side two which I imagine is supposed to be the "Piece de Resistance" (I think because it's the slowest and longest track) is absolute garbage.

Come on HELLHAMMER do us all a favour and give-up now, before it's too late and you destroy all known music and corrupt the youth of the world to your musical turd.

To your average fan I'd insist you buy this record - it serves as a testament to the worst group in history - and anyway I feel a right prick being the only person on Earth to own it!!

DAVE CONSTABLE

## FAITHFUL BREATH

Gold 'n Glory  
(Mausoleum Records-Skull 8335)



To be honest I wasn't expecting too much from these German Metallers after their previous abysmal efforts, but "Gold 'n Glory" turns out to be a pleasant surprise.

The material here has much more commercial appeal to anything on their previous albums giving FAITHFUL BREATH an almost ACCEPTISH sound. Certainly tracks like "King Of The Rock", "Don't Feel Hate" and "Gold 'n Glory" are as good as anything that can be found on their fellow countryman's "Balls To The Wall" album. Even better still are the more up-tempo "Jailbreaker", "Don't Drive Me Mad" and the catchy "Play The Game", which I feel would have made a better choice for a single than the

long ballad "A Million Hearts". However this song together with "Princess In Disguise" are the albums only weak points.

If you're already into FAITHFUL BREATH then you will no doubt love this album, but for those of you who have written them off in the past as no hopes then I'd advise you to give them another chance - you won't be disappointed.

BERNARD DOE

## BURN

Burn  
(Moonshine-SMSLP 1006)



The first album from a young Swedish band and a fine debut it is too. From the commercial VAN HALENish "Good Or Evil" to the hyper frenzied speed of "Get Lost", BURN have delivered a well balanced 10 track metal album.

Generally they remind me a lot of early TYGERS OF PAN TANG - none too surprising when you learn that BURN were once known as SPELLBOUND which was of course the title of said bands second album.

In Tom Oakland the Swedes have a powerful vocalist who comes across like a menacing Dave Lee Roth, especially on the superb opening track "Gates Of Hell".

Other highlights include "The Rebel", "Burn In Fire" and the instrumental "Fata Morgana" with instant comparisons here to IRON MAIDEN's "Genghis Khan", only, dare I say it, better!

Admittedly the production could be far superior, but as I said, a fine debut from a very talented band and certainly one to look out for.

BERNARD DOE

## SORTILEGE

Metamorphose  
(Senator Records)



Just when you thought it was safe to step both feet into the French Riviera, SORTILEGE appear like a large, bug-eyed, blue hairy spider out of nowhere(sic) to bring you the follow-up to last year's 5-track EP on Rave-On Records (which never did come out with English vocals). "Metamorphose" has been released by the new Senator Label, distributed by Boots(nothing to do with the British chain of Chemist/Department stores!) - both German companies!!

On first hearing I was none too impressed with the production which sounded a little too hollow, but on second hearing, with everyone out of the house and at a Shades approved volume the sheer

power broke free. "Metamorphose" I noted was one not to be missed despite the awful cover art. But as the saying goes 'Fuck Art Let's Dance' - I dunno about dancing but it's a definite case of invisible Flying-V's all round and mime in that mirror!

"D'Ailleurs" opens with a frantic PRIEST/DIO type sound followed by the rather ill-paced "Majeste", bit too commercial too (A French TWISTED SISTER?). This is the only track they seem to lack cohesion. The album's worst track.

It's French Metal stormin' anthems such as "Metamorphose", "Cyclope de l'Etrang" and the ripping "Legende" that the band show their true prowess with Augustin's shrill screams and Dumont's anatol-like guitar runs making them the stars of this particular display of "Frog-Rock".

I predict that the next album will put this band on a par with the Euro-Metal likes of ACCEPT and KROKUS(not that the Swiss lot are much of a band these days) in the International market place. Who cares if they sing in their native tongue? French bands are more the better for it, take TRUST as a prime example.

DAVE REYNOLDS

## TROUBLE

Trouble  
(Metal Blade)



These guys should be sued under copyright I suppose for blatantly ripping off SABBATH a la first 4 LPs.

However, they do it so well that I'll forgive them their lack of originality and concentrate on this album as a release in 1984.

It's probably one of the most morbid, depressing and yet in a perverse way enjoyable releases for many a year. If you're contemplating suicide don't listen to this because it's likely to send you over the edge, then again it's so black (in a metallic sense!) that you may be put off by the thought what lies beyond death anyway.

It's probably pointless investigating any individual track since they are all re-makes of ancient classics as it were, but it certainly works a treat. I'd buy this LP for your worse moods or just to headbang to (plenty of it in fact is possible here!) So essential - maybe, I'll certainly give it pride of place in my miserable little collection.

DAVE CONSTABLE



## NORTHWEST METALFEST

Seattle HM Compilation LP  
(Ground Zero)



To my mind the Seattle area is one of the best breeding grounds for HR/HM in the States spawning Jimi Hendrix, Heart, Randy Hansen and the under-rated TKO. Recently QUEENSRÛYCHE, RAIL (after years of hard work), CULPRIT and OVERLORD are bringing our attention once again to the city.

OVERLORD are one of the ten bands featured on this album compiled by Penny Lane Record Store. Let's not beat around the bush, I love this band. Their contribution is a superlative version of "On The Edge" with Steven Van Liew in his best vocal form yet, whilst Glen Logan on lead axe also puts in a stirring performance. Excellent!

It's LIPSTICK who open the album however with the sleaze metal attack of "Daily Grind". With a new line-up they seem to have dropped the T-S style make-up favoured by ex-axe man Kim Kyll and hopefully the BABYS, KISS and CRUE covers. A good showing here.

OPEN FIRE sound like a classier VIRGIN STEELE with a slightly commercial number "Cry For The Nations" with the merest hint of keyboards. Worth investigating further. ROTTWEILLER look as Germanic as their name. "Intense As Hell" is their track and it would be if the guitar were far more prominent in the mix. Heavy tho', but not as heavy as THE BONDAGE BOYS who look as weird as their name suggests, but not as weird as they used to look! A glam band they put the Brit Brigade to shame with the slightly TKO-ish "The Loser". Great.

Ho! Ho! SATO. I just love the QUEENSRÛYCHE impersonation boys! I'm sure you can sound more original. On "Leather Warrior" which is a well put together Brit-Ryche metal number Dean Jefferies (the vocalist) even sounds like Geoff Tate.

STRIKE are a little too flashy with an ACCEPT type sound and Eddie Van Halen fan Gregg Stock as their one guitarist. Keep an eye on 'em though. Their contribution "Deadline" isn't that unoriginal!

METAL CHURCH blasts the cobwebs away with "Deathwish" which suffers the albums worst drum sound. It's a pity their true classic "Battalions" wasn't chosen instead.

The two bands that let the side(s) down are KODA KHAN and MACE. The latter are the

sort of rubbish you find on "Metal Massacre". Very messy and hopelessly weak in the vocal department. KODA KHAN aren't quite so bad with their CRYSTYS style number "Fantasy and Science Fiction" but lose out on a poor sound and feeble guitar work.

Overall though, a most pleasing album. As ANGEL will soon say "BUY OR DIE!"

DAVE REYNOLDS

## WOLF

Edge Of The World  
(Mausoleum Records-Skull 8323)



This is the UK hard rock band that signed to Chrysalis a couple of years ago, released a single "Head Contact Rock'n' Roll"/"A Soul For The Devil" and then seemed to disappear into obscurity... until now.

Most, if not all, of the material here is at least two or three years old and will be familiar with a lot of head-bangers who have the singles and tapes of the bands early radio sessions. Included are the tracks from the aforementioned single as well as "Highway Rider", and "Red Lights" the bands debut release on the Metal label back in 1980 when WOLF went under the name of BLACK AXE.

"Red Lights" is undoubtedly the heaviest track on the album although the best has to be the hard driving "Shock Treatment". Other highlights are "Too Close For Comfort", "Medicine Man" and the title track "Edge Of The World".

The remaining two numbers "Heaven Will Rock'n'Roll" and "Rest In Peace" are of only average quality and it must be said that "Head Contact Rock'n'Roll" isn't the headbanging mayhem that the title suggests. Still, a good album from WOLF but whether they can challenge the likes of HEAVY PETTIN', MAMAS BOYS and countless other commercial UK hard rock bands fighting for supremacy remains to be seen.

BERNARD DOE

## ST. VITUS

St. Vitus  
(SST Records)



This LP winged its way to Shades here in London on the recommendation of Bill Burkard of Record Exchange in Walnut Creek, California; I'll give you one thing Bill, it's certainly different.

This LP fits the description of doom metal, making TROUBLE sound like BUCKS FIZZ, ST. VITUS storm (well, plods a better word for it!) through five of the slowest and longest HM tracks ever recorded.

The absolute standout is the nine-minute "Psychopath" which although will never get airplay anywhere on Earth is destined to become a classic with its tale of an escaped nutter from a mental hospital. The track crawls along at a snails pace, but is perversely brilliant.

Although this is the highlight of the LP, the tracks combined make the album listenable (or unlistenable depending on your point of view!) as a whole. Not one where you play just selected highlights.

Get an earful of the 35 or so minutes of slowed-down mayhem ST. VITUS have to offer, you won't be disappointed but will end up very very depressed.

DAVE CONSTABLE

## WYZARD

Future Knights  
(Pazuzu PR666)



WYZARD are a young 4-piece metal band from San Antonio, Texas and "Future Knights" is their debut vinyl release. Each of the four tracks on this mini-album "Future Knights Knights", "Renegade", "Crystal City" and "Knights Of Metal" are pure out and out metal delivered in fast'n'furious style.

Guitarist Michael Angelo Valenzuela produces some fine power riffing and soloing throughout the proceedings especially on "Knights Of Metal", which for me is the best track, even if the riff is almost a carbon copy of the old MONTROSE classic "Black Train".

No doubt power metal enthusiasts will lap-up every minute of this album, and deservedly so too. A fine debut.

BERNARD DOE

## DARK WIZARD

Devils Victim  
(Mausoleum Records-Fist 8337)



We reviewed DARK WIZARD's demo in the last issue of METAL FORCES and now the Dutch rockers have released this 5-track mini-album.

Side One opens up with the fast paced "Trip Of Doom" followed by "Big Typhoon" which after a poor bluesy type intro, picks up speed to a frenzoid assault of mayhem that is matched by "Poisoned Whisky".

Unfortunately side two is a bit of a let down with "Mr Nice" and "Devils Victim" not producing the same sort of excitement level as those tracks on side one. However, a good vinyl debut and still worth checking out.

BERNARD DOE

## ★ UNDERDOG

Rabies In Town  
(Mausoleum Records-Skull8331)

This is the follow-up to the German bands self-titled debut album of last year and quite an improvement it is too.

Side One features three DIO like epics in "Nightmares", "I Do It" and the high speed frenzyed "Needing Your Love". However, for a little track "Rabies In Town" is pretty appalling although quite comical - a song all about biting ladies in the arse, (sure to have Dave Reynolds frothing at the mouth!)

The closing cut on side one sees UNDERDOG doing an ANTHRAX and taking a song out of the ALICE COOPER songbook, though their version of "Under My Wheels" is not a patch on the original.

"Rocket On" opens side two and is only really an average rocker - the same can be said of the QUIET RIOR sounding "Hey You", "Goodbye Blue Sky" and "We Like Rock'n'Roll". "Too late To Escape" though is a different kettle of fish, a hard driving slice of metal sure to have the listener shaking violently from beginning to end.

Not a classic album by any means but "Rabies In Town" is a good effort and well worth getting hold of.

BERNARD DOE

## ★ GILGAMESH

Take One  
(Rave-On EP)

Oh yeah! Rough, hard-edged metal of Dutch origin. GILGAMESH may look like a bunch of weirdos but they don't sound like it. Take "Oppression", the opening number with instant riffs and stunning lead guitar breaks. Good vocal delivery in perfect English from Frank Van Stijn also impresses.

"Daybreak" is a ballad of sorts, starting off quietly before exploding into a beautiful finely paced rock song aided by a good rhythm backbone, particularly drummer Hans Laponder. This song could be a classic if it was given top-notch production.

Side two features "Revolution"(anything to do with Frank's slight resemblance to Lech Waleza?) and "Head Shaker". An off-putting and messy intro to the former rather spoils things and production is a little too frugal, pass. The latter features an Udo-like yelp

at the start of proceedings before - going nowhere. Yep, sadly side two is a complete bummer BUT listenable. Still "Take One" is much better than the band's showing on the AARDCHOK compilation album "Metal Clogs" of a few years ago. Maybe GILGAMESH will make more of an impression with their next release.

DAVE REYNOLDS

## ★ HELLION

Dangerous Maneuvres  
(Stampepe Records)

No, not that over hyped LA band, this HELLION hail from New York.

The opening two numbers, on this their debut album, "The Pump" and "Ain't No Hesitating" are more like commercial pop than high-energy rock that the biog. proclaims this band to be. As for the rest of the album - well with a couple of exceptions it's all fairly pedestrian hard rock lacking that killer punch to put them up alongside with the best. I've no doubt songs like "In Need Of Love" and "Rock Your Rocks" go down a storm live but on vinyl I'm afraid they sound pretty lame.

The two best cuts on the album, "Hellion" and the almost excellent "One Way Or Another" were both released on a single late last year, which suggests that maybe the band should have resisted the temptation to release a full length album until they had more equally strong material. Still let's hope for better things from HELLION next time around.

BERNARD DOE

## ★ DEATHSLAYER

Cry Of The Swords  
(Advance Tape)

You may have first read of DEATHSLAYER in these pages two issues ago. Since then the band has been hard at work on their self-financed LP, "Cry Of The Swords". For the band it's the start of a well laid plan to get the arousal of curious ears. For the listener it's a remarkable progression from the band's first demo and a good example of the talent of the new breed of New York's metal offerings. Here you'll find none of the fashionable metal-pop compromises, which seem to be so popular in light of DEF LEPPARD's current success. But rather the more traditional doom laden type

tales of subjugators of evil and vice. It still amazes me how the new metal groups can sound fresh and vibrant, but DEATHSLAYER are a prime example. led by lead guitarist Johnny Hearts passion for MAIDENesque compositions, the LP is introduced by "Strange Illusions", an "Ideas Of March" type build up which bears similar power. From there your thrust into the title track "Cry Of The Swords", and introduced to the vocals of Suzanne Hearts. It is only now becoming a common metal practice to have a female vocalist fronting an evil metal band. As we have seen in bands like ACID and WARLOCK. Miss Hearts impressiveness lies in the fact that she doesn't have to rely on wallowing screams and moans, she can deliver her effectiveness by singing.

Other cuts on the LP include, "Journey For Life" and "The Night Of The Burning Cross", which include some fine virtuoso guitar playing and a lot of tempo changes and breaks in the old SABBATH tradition. The highlight of the LP is "Deathslayer", a longer cut which goes from passive to machine gun and back! And here you'll find the best riffs on the LP. The song is a look into the jaws of death and epitomizes the overall sound of the band. On the whole "Cry Of The Swords" is quite an impressive debut from this new young band.

PHILIP DIBENEDETTO

## ★ ERIC STEEL

Eric Steel  
(Avalanche-Megaforce)

A patchy LP this one. After hearing the magnificent TT QUICK mini-LP I was expecting a real killer from the other release on Johnny Zee's Avalanche label.

Although obviously a competent band Eric Steel's powerful sound is somewhat blunted by a 'flat' production from Wayne Gilpin. Some of the songs herein are potential classics in "American Dream", "Hypnotized" and "High Roller" to name just three, but none reach their full potential.

Guitarist Dave Anderson contributes some fine lead breaks here and there but overall I'm left with an impression of a under-produced LP with songs that are in the most part too short.

Still, check it out if you're into the more commercial side of HEAVY METAL.

DAVE CONSTABLE



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# METAL MASTERS



"MALICE actually means evil intentions, but to us it represents aggressive intent, or an expression of mental aggression". So says Jay Reynolds, guitarist of the Los Angeles based MALICE.

Not much has been heard of the band since they appeared on the first "Metal Massacre" compilation in 1982, with two tracks "Capitve Of Light" and "Kick You Down". But since then their line-up has remained stable with the exception of drummer Pete Laufman who was replaced by Cliff Carothers in June of last year. Cliff was once in the legendary SNOW, a band that also included the talents of QUIET RIOT's guitarist Carlos Cavaso. The rest of the line-up reads: James Neal (vocals), Mark Behn (bass), Jay Reynolds and Mick Zane (lead guitars).

Jay and Mick originally formed MALICE as a studio project at the end of 1981, but it wasn't until October 1st 1982 that they officially became a band. It wasn't long before they built up a large local following in L.A. and now sell-out whatever venue they play.

Last July MALICE recorded an impressive eight-track demo with producer Michael Wagener of SCORPIONS, ACCEPT, DOKKEN and GREAT WHITE fame.

The band have a very European Metal sound

and have often been described as PRIEST clones, which I feel is a little unfair. True, James Neal's vocals bear an uncanny resemblance to that of Rob Halfords, but musically MALICE have a lot to offer in their own right. For instance "Rockin' With You" is a real metal anthem in the "Bang Your Head" and "Rock Of Ages" vein, only better, and gives the band a widely appreciable metal sound that shows that the band are more than capable of challenging the likes of QUIET RIOT and DEF LEPPARD in the 'Metal For All The Family' stakes. But hardcore head-bangers never fear, MALICE are at their absolute best with their faster paced material and metallic gems such as "Air Attack", "Stellar Masters" and "Gods Of Thunder" are definitely for you. The latter track was also featured on the bands 1982 demo along with "Into The Ground" "Murder" and "Dues Paid In Hell", but this newer version blows away the original.

It surely can't be too long before the band attain the major record deal that they richly deserve, and when they do, who's to say that MALICE won't reach their goal of total world domination. I certainly wouldn't bet against it.

MALICE, 8306 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1004, Beverly Hills, California 90211, USA.

BERNARD DOE



Norway's trembling - the reason is TNT, an explosive Norwegian Heavy Metal band that register on the 'Richterscale' wherever they perform!!!

But unlike many of their fellow Scandinavia's TNT do not rely on loads of double bass drumming and thrashing guitar instead they combine powerful riffs and catchy sing-a-long tunes that grab you after just one listen!

TNT's main man drummer Diesel Dahl was recently over in the UK to work out a deal with the Agency. So I got a chance to talk to the power-house drummer who laid the foundations for the band.

I first asked him about the foundation of TNT: "We formed in the summer of '82, we then signed to Polygram Records in the autumn of '82. After that we went into the studio to record our debut LP."

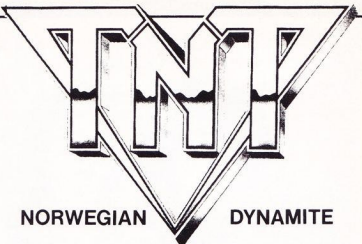
How has the LP sold in Norway? "It has sold very well, we have sold 15,000 copies so far in Norway and it reached No. 6 in the album charts."

As your debut LP was recorded in Norwegian it obviously limited your appeal elsewhere in the world, so will you be recording in English from now on? "We are definitely recording in English from now on. We are releasing a maxi-single in English, it will be released in May. We are also working on our second LP called "Knights Of The New Thunder" it will be produced by Bjoern Nessjoe who has produced THE BOYZZ and Gary Holton(ex-HEAVY METAL KIDS)."

Will the new LP be in the same vein as your debut? "Yes, but a progression, faster, heavier, with a lot of melody. It will be released in June or July."

For a Scandinavian Metal band I noticed a distinct lack of speed and devil lyrics in your music? "Well, most Swedish and Danish bands play fast because they think they have to, TNT don't have to play that kind of music. We don't sing about the devil, because we are a 'Party Metal' band we like to have a good time, booze and women we like having fun."

What is the current HM scene like in Norway? "Very good, Norway is a very good market for HM. Bands like AC/DC and VAN HALEN are very popular but it is very seldom that



big bands play Norway."

Is it easy for bands to get gigs in Norway? "It is easy, but you have to play for four hours(!!!!), you have four breaks in that time. Bands can also only play at weekends."

Tell us about your stage-show? "Well, we have a Viking Long Boat above our amps on stage, which is 8 metres long! We also have bombs and lots of fire, it is a very flash show."

Sounds great, I look forward to seeing it! What are your plans for touring at home and abroad? "We have signed to Fireball Management in New York, where we will be based eventually, they are going to organise a US support tour as well as club gigs for us. We are also working on a deal with the Agency in London for a support tour here in the UK this summer, and in the autumn we will be supporting VAN HALEN on their Scandinavian tour (8 gigs)."

The future certainly looks bright for Norwegian Masters TNT. With a worldwide record deal on the cards and a major support tour on both sides of the Atlantic, and with a move to New York later this year there's no stopping 'em. I strongly advise every Metal fan to check 'em out. If you like a bit of melody with your mayhem you'll love TNT!

"TNT Fun Club" Box 3811, 7001 Trondheim, NORWAY.

GRAHAM BARNELL





Pic Ross Haffin courtesy Smallwood-Taylor Enterprises

# W.A.S.P.

## PSYCHO-BUZZNESS

Perverse far beyond your wildest dreams W.A.S.P. are wrestling the crown currently worn by Ozzy Osbourne as the most disgusting name in metal (my personal vote goes to Don Costa, but there ya go!). Boy, the gutter press rags such as The Sun are gonna have a field day. W.A.S.P. make UK porn metal merchants WRATCHILD look like a kindergarten group playing Doctors in the Wendy House in comparison!

More unbelievable than Snooker 'star' Tony Knowles' far-fetched sexploits, W.A.S.P. is the culmination of years spent as social misfits for Blackie Lawless(bass/vocals), Randy Piper(guitar), Tony Richards(drums) and Chris Holmes(guitar).

Recent events have seen the Los Angeles act formed from the remains of worm-eating outfit SISTER being taken under the protective(?) wing of MAIDEN manager Rod Smallwood and signed to Capitol Records worldwide. However, what should have been W.A.S.P.'s

debut offering for the label has now(or should have) been released by an independant label. The problem was that Capitol were worried and quite rightly so, that the lyrical content of the none too subtle "Animal(Fuck Like A Beast)" would get them in all sorts of trouble (for example, an executive of the board that owns Capitol, the Thorn-EMI group could've been put in jail for 28 days).

In Britain at present there is a big movement growing to ban all obscene films, records and literature and Capitol would indeed be in serious legal trouble for corrupting the nations youth. Slightly pathetic? We all have different views, but from where I'm looking I find the majority of so-called "Family Entertainment" on TV and chart records, particularly disco and transvestites like Boy George, Marilyn and Pete Burns to be far more obscene and corruptive.

W.A.S.P. shouldn't be too bothered, they've still got

their Capitol deal and the upcoming debut LP "Winged Assassins" set for release. The band aren't just a publicity hype, they really can play good, solid metal with Blackies gloriously gruff, almost Simmons-like vocals being the main attribute. Anyone who has a copy of the four-track demo or has an advance tape of the single will agree with me.

The band's press bio is one of the most informative and entertaining that your trusty (?) MF crew have read, including such gems as the way in which Chris Holmes was recruited (via a photo in the "Beaver Hunt" section of the US wank-mag 'Hustler') and how Blackie was urged to give up fighting (he was thrown out of Military School for beating the shit out of a Sergeant Major, breaking his knuckles in the process).

World domination? It's not too far away for these men of warped sentiments. Watch out, the grossest are about to descend upon thee. I'm corrupted already. Hey Girls! I'm an animal... I Fuck.....

DAVE REYNOLDS



# KAMIKAZE KILLERS

PART TWO

Continuing with our brief look at some of the up and coming bands on the Japanese Heavy Metal scene.

## ANTHEM

Toshihito Maeda(vocals)  
Hiroya Fukuda(guitars)  
Naoto Shibata(bass)  
Takamasa Ouchi(drums)

Japan's answer to METALLICA, ANTHEM are an excellent power metal band that songs like "Warning Action!", "Steeler" and "Wild Anthem" undoubtedly prove.

The band have a loyal following of headbangers around the Tokyo area and call their fans "Dead Nomads".(Somehow I don't think this phrase will catch on in the west!)



ANTHEM will be appearing on the Japanese HM compilation album "Heavy Metal Force" and hopefully it won't be too long before they are signed up by a major label.

ANTHEM c/o Mutsumi Kadoma, Nishioji Lions Mansion 1004, 5-3, 4 Chome, Momoi, Suginami Ku, Tokyo, JAPAN 〒167.

## SNIPER

Shigehisa Kitao(vocals)  
Masanori Kusakabe(guitar)  
Romi Murase(bass)  
Shunji Ito(drums)

SNIPER were formed in the summer of 1981 by guitarist Masanori Kusakabe and released their first single "Fire"/"Phantom Of The Night" on Electric Ladyland Records



in July last year, which has now sold out.

In January SNIPER recorded an excellent live album "Open The Attack" (Electric Ladyland -ELL Oll), that also features the talents of MARINO guitarist Raven Ohtani. The album was recently released in Japan as a limited edition of 1,000 copies (see 'Metal On Vinyl' review).

SNIPER are planning a British tour later this year. Certainly a band to look out for.

SNIPER c/o Osamu Ito, 2-40, Tsutishi Cho, Zuiho Ku, Nagoya City, JAPAN 〒467.

## BELLADONNA

Tsuyoshi Akamatsu(vocals)  
Etsuo Imoto(guitar)  
Masami Kamiji(bass)  
Atsushi Shimano(drums)

Since their formation in April 1980, BELLADONNA have



had numerous line-up changes including seven bassists and seven different vocalists. The latest change came in March when drummer and founding member Tadashi Furukusa was replaced by Atsushi Shimano (ex-OIL).

Musically BELLADONNA are nothing to write home about. Although songs such as "Dead End" and "Moon Ride" are delivered in a fast and furious manner, the material is generally pretty poor.

BELLADONNA c/o Etsuo Imoto, 24-33-209, 1 Chome, Aoba, Shinamoto Cho, Mishima Gun, Osaka, JAPAN 〒168.

## JYUNI-HITOE

Masaki Fujiwara(vocals)  
Kazunori Abe(guitar)  
Hiroshi Yaegashi(guitar)  
Takashi Nakamura(bass)  
Hiroshi Ito(drums)



Pic Yuzi Adachi

Formed over six years ago by vocalist Masaki Fujiwara and guitarist Kazunori Abe, JYUNI-HITOE have a very heavy raw Y and T like sound. Their only success to date has been to win an "East West And Light Music Contest" in 1982.

They play regularly around the Tokyo area and apparently have a powerful stage show. JYUNI-HITOE will be making their vinyl debut on the "Heavy Metal Force" compilation.

JYUNI-HITOE Fan Club, C/O Motohashi, 26-31, 2 Chome, Ishikami Cho, Nerima Ku, Tokyo, JAPAN 〒177.

## HURRY SCUARY

Yasutsugu Morioka(vocals)  
Hedeaki Nakama(guitar)  
Kenichi Watanabe(guitar)  
Junichi Nishino(bass)  
Taku Izuhara(drums)



A melodic heavy rock band in the DEF LEPPARD, VAN HALEN vein. HURRY SCUARY were formed just over a year ago. The band had two tracks ("Rock'n'Roll Paradise" and "It's Just A Radio") featured on the "Battle Of Metal" compilation album.

Vocalist Yasutsugu Morioka recently left the band, but as yet no replacement has been found.

HURRY SCUARY c/o Taku Izuhara, 11-10, 1 Chome, Higashi Toyonaka, Toyonaka City, Osaka, JAPAN 〒560.

## LIAR

Motocyuki Otsuka (vocals)  
Takahiro Kagawa (guitar)  
Takeshi Yamamoto (bass)  
Shingo Matsutake (drums)



Pic Yuzi Adachi

Formed in 1982, LIAR are from the Osaka region and play US sounding commercial hard rock, in fact the poppy "Aho Hoshi Ni Narumade" sounds a lot like ANGEL without keyboards. Not one of Japan's better bands and as yet they have no vinyl plans.

LIAR c/o Takahiro Kagawa, 1-13, 2 Chome, Hanayashiki, Kawanishi City, Hyogo, JAPAN #666.

## JESUS

Koji Doi (vocals)  
Jyun Sagane (guitar/backing vocals)  
Leo Utsunomiya (bass/backing vocals)  
Shin Kashiwagi (drums)

JESUS have only been in existence since January of this year, when they were formed by ex-OIL bassist Leo Utsunomiya. The band describe their music as Subsonic Violence Heavy Metal, which isn't a far cry from our westernised power metal. Their song "Subsonic Violence" is an excellent number up there in



the EXCITER class although apart from maybe "Counter Attack" the rest of the bands material tends to be fairly messy. However, I've no doubt they would go down a storm with the hardcore death metal fans in the US and Europe.

The band currently have a demo available for sale featuring four tracks - "Wizard", "We Are Catch Your Best", "Counter Attack" and "Subsonic Violence".

JESUS c/o Tsuyoshi Vehira, Music House Motion, Fuji Hitz 405, 2-10, 2 Chome, Nakahira, Nishinari Ku, Osaka, JAPAN #557.

Compiled by BERNARD DOE with special thanks to Hiro Arishima, Naoki Murohashi and Hiroshi Sako, with additional help from Thomas Vogtman, Yoshie Mochida, Yuka Kato, Masuya Morisaki, Shaw Ohno, Kelsuke Igata, Mutsumi Kadoma, Taku Izuhara, Takahiro Kagawa, Osamu Ito and Toshimi Yakura.

# MARINO

## ON TARGET

We first featured Japanese metallists MARINO in our "Kamikaze Killers" part one last issue. Since then the band have released their debut album "Target" and lead guitarist Raven Ohtani has been in London recording a solo album.

Raven joined MARINO two years ago from ZEPHYR, a band that also included drummer Kazuhisa Takahashi who's now with X-RAY. As well as recording the debut MARINO album, Raven also makes a guest appearance on the excellent live SNIPER album, "Open The Attack", but why has he come to London for his solo project? "There are much better musicians in Britain" explains Raven. Too true and Ohtani has certainly gone after the services of some of our most respected musicians with the likes of Maggie Bell and Paul Rodgers all due to make an appearance. According to Raven: "The music on the album will still be classed as Hard Rock, but it will be a lot different from MARINO."

As a guitarist Raven is definitely up there in the Akira Takasaki class although his style is different. He cites his influences as Jimi Hendrix and Uli Roth, and this is certainly reflected in his playing.



The Western World interest in Japanese Heavy Metal has increased immensely over the past 18 months, but how healthy is the scene in Japan at the moment? "It's improving all the time. There are better bands now than there was a year

ago, so record companies are starting to sign more and more HM bands." But why do bands like LOUDNESS and EARTHSKAKER have to travel to England and America to record their albums. What are the advantages? "Japanese engineers are not very good, they're too old. They may be fine for traditional Japanese music, but they are no good for Heavy Rock. American and English engineers have a lot better understanding of Hard Rock."

Raven's solo album, appropriately called "Raven's Eye" is scheduled for Japanese release in July with a UK release a strong possibility at a later date. True, the album may not be total Heavy Metal, but it will certainly give evidence of what a great talent Raven Ohtani is. as those of you who have invested in "Target" will already know.

Contact: MARINO c/o Masuya Morisaki, SMS Records, Kaisai Building, 8-10, 1 Chome, Azabudai, Minato-Ku, Tokyo, JAPAN #106.

BERNARD DOE



# DEMO-LITION

## NASTY SAVAGE

Well you read about them first in issue No. 2 and now, as their "Wage Of Mayhem" tape crashes into the METAL FORCES office I can report that all the expectations have been fulfilled!

NASTY SAVAGE you may remember are the band that apparently causes mass hysteria where ever they play with their wild stage show that includes spitting blood and smashing TV sets.

Based in Brandon, Florida the band consists of Nasty Ronnie(vocals), Ben Meyer and Dave Austin(guitars), Fred Dregischan(bass) and Curtis Beeson(drums).

Formed over two years ago by Meyer and Dregischan NASTY SAVAGE's demo contains four tracks of overkill mayhem



in "Unchained Angel", "Savage Desire", "Witches Sabbath" and "XXX". The latter being a fast and furious affair with a chorus chant of "X-X-X" that is reminiscent of ANVIL'S "6-6-6". However, the best track "Witches Sabbath" is more in the BLACK SABBATH/MERCYFUL FATE mould with some excellent King Diamond like vocals from Nasty Ronnie.

No doubt it won't be too long before this fine band are snapped up for their first vinyl release but if you can't wait to be "savaged" then you can obtain a copy of the "Wage Of Mayhem" demo by sending 5 dollars to:- SAVAGE WAGE OF MATHEM, 109 Mitchell Drive, Brandon, Florida 33511, USA.

BERNARD DOE

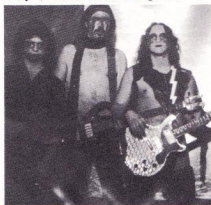
## RUBY TOPAZ

RUSH clones and proud of it, RUBY TOPAZ come from Smithfield, Rhode Island and recently released a rather good single called "Why?" coupled with "The Sack", and in RUSH tradition are a trio who like wearing early CLOVEN HOOF cum Fish of MARILLION style face make-up. Describing themselves as "Theatrical Progressive Hard Rock", Mark Bram(guitar/vocals), Jim Ziziades(bass/vocals) and Jim Rizzo(drums) are getting some rave reviews for their single and it's well deserved because it's a bloody excellent record.

Manager James Redgold reckons Bram is "one of the top two guitarists anywhere(the other being Eddie Van Halen) and it can only be a matter of time

before the World discovers RUBY TOPAZ." Such faith!

The band's latest demo see's them climb away from the RUSH tag(certainly Bram sounds a dead-ringer for Geddy Lee on "Why") with four songs of



varying excellence. "The Unicorn Song" with its slightly acid-ic guitar-work and "Keep Out" a very Heavy Metal orientated number, a HM version of ZEBRA? "Rosalie is slightly Jazz-Rock influenced and a bit like ZEBRA too. Bram turns his hand to some superb guitaring here. After a forgettable piano intro "Another Day" transforms into a Novo combo style number.

RUBY TOPAZ, by no means Heavy, are certainly worth investigating - this could be the start of another super-group.

Contact:- James Redgold Assoc., 93 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, Rhode Island, 02197, USA.

DAVE REYNOLDS

## HIRAX

California's HIRAX were formed earlier this year out of the ashes of L.A.KaOS and K.G.B. and feature Katon DePena(vocals), Bob Savage(guitar), Gary Monardo(bass) and Brian Keith(drums).

The band's first demo which they produced themselves along with Joe Alves contains four cuts, "Born In The Streets", "Battletory", "Stand Up And Be Counted" and the excellent "Believe In The King" -



Power Metal at its best! The quality of the material here suggest that HIRAX have

the ability to get up there with the best and they certainly have a fine vocalist/frontman in Katon DePena. Hopefully it won't be too long before the band get some of their hard driving mayhem onto vinyl. In the meantime the demo(complete with HIRAX club card and newsletter) can be obtained by sending \$4.00 to:- HIRAX Club, 6062 San Rafael Dr., Buena Park, California 90620, USA.

BERNARD DOE

## GRIFFIN

From the San Francisco Bay Area comes yet another metal band to claim its place among the ranks of the heavy. GRIFFIN is a five-piece outfit: Tom Sprayberry-bass and vocals; Mike(Yaz)Jastremski-lead guitar; Rick Cooper-lead guitar; Billy McKay-vocals; Rick Wagner-drums. The groups major influences range from classical to metal by PRIEST, SABRETH, MAIDEN and ANGELWITCH. They describe themselves as the 'Heaviest Sellable Band' although nowhere near commercialistic. GRIFFIN has progressed along the more traditional lines of HM (ala "Hell Bent For Leather").

The band began 4 years ago with Cooper and McKay and minor changes were made until the final line-up was conceived. In February '82, they recorded their first demo featuring "Hell Runneth Over". It was good but the group knew they could do better, heavier material.

GRIFFIN's new demo is a 100% improvement over their previous, which is still quite an achievement. It contains 10 songs of metal ecstasy with noteworthy musicianship from all members. Guitarwork from Cooper and Yaz is comparable to that of Kevin Keybourne and Glen Tipton. Sprayberry and Wagner do not simply exist to provide a backbeat, but supply a bit of ingenuity to the music. McKay's vocals are hard to describe. To say he sounds like a cross between Halford and RAVEN'S Gallagher would be safely ambiguous.

Although all the cuts are good, there are several stand-outs. "Flight Of The Griffin"

is a tremendous anthem/ballad which starts with a melodic intro and ends with full speed at high level. "Hawk The Slayer" is reminiscent of RAVEN's "Lamb's To The Slaughter." The best track however, is "Heavy Metal Attack", which as the title suggests, is a soaring metal piece for the headbanging masses.



Although the band has been plagued with problems from booking agents, clubs, etc., they have remained together and are currently negotiating with companies for a decent album contract. Obtaining their demo may be difficult due to the band's reluctance in handing them out, but it is well worth the effort.

For more info write to: GRIFFIN c/o Yaz, 4436 Cristy Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546, USA.

GENE JUN

## SNOWBLIND

I've never been too sure about British bands trying to sound American. I've only heard two that can just about get away with it, TOBRUK and SHY. South London based SNOWBLIND have all the right ideas but are somewhat lacking in knowing what to do with them at the moment.

Not to be confused with the Horsham based pre-ICEMON band, this version were formed by Ross Bingham(keyboards/guitar) and Andy Simmons(guitar) last year and were joined by Kevin Baker(drums), Tony Mason(vocals) and the man with the biggest claim to fame, ex-SABRE bassist Geoff Gillespie(remember the rather good "Miracle Man" single on Neat?).

SNOWBLIND's demo is roughly produced for the kind of music they play(mid-tempo Metal with haunting waves of keyboard work) but I'm sure that's no fault of the band. The four numbers are: "On Our Own(featuring an initial guitar riff that's a near steal of SAVAGE's "China Run") "Possession"(a cross between UFO/ANGEL/RAINBOW with heavy emphasis on keyboards - probably the best track) "Pride Before A Fall" and "Look On Up". It's all competently played but I do feel a little uneasy at Tony Mason's wavering vocal style. He's a good singer but I don't think it suits the style SNOWBLIND are trying to achieve. Still, SNOWBLIND could be on everyone's lips, you never know. Interested parties can find out themselves by contacting the band at: 55B Whitehall Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey OR4 6AF, ENGLAND.

DAVE REYNOLDS

## IMPALER

Mike Senn-(guitar), Bob Johnson(drums), Court Hawley (bass), Bill Lindsey(vocals) and Mike Torok(guitar).

Yet another US metal act bursts out of the Northwest, this time the savage IMPALER. They have been together for less than a year now and have already recorded an EP on their own aptly named Blood Records, the tracks featured will be "Assasin", "Shock Rock", and the anthem "Impaler". Inbetween recording the band have been playing gigs, which have been described as a cross between "The Night Of The Living Dead and The Day After", the highlights of the show



being an exploding guitar, amidst coffins, cages and rivers of blood - W.A.S.P. look out!

You won't have long to witness this carnage as they have a video out soon called "Vicious Dreams", it has to be seen to be believed by all accounts and the American public will be doing just that as the show goes on the road during the summer, visiting East and West Coasts and anywhere they are in demand.

For more info write to: IMPALER, 1985 Christensen Ave., #12 West St Paul, MN 55118, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS



## POSSESSOR

AAAGH! CRYSYS live on. POSSESSOR are from Kenmore in Washington State and have been together for three years, although the ages of the members aren't as old - drummer Tony Niccoli is 16, guitarist Chris Niccoli is 17, bass player Brett McGregor is 18 and Tim Black, vocalist is 16.

POSSESSOR's main influences are BLACK SABBATH, IRON MAIDEN and ANGELWITCH. Their own sound isn't so deadly. As I said, CRYSYS possess these lads - with "Live Forever" and "The Dictator" being very poor with fuck-all production making the drum sound biscuit-tinned beyond Stewart Copeland's wildest dreams.

However, "Angel Of Death" and "Terror" are brave attempts to rescue the band from the graveyard, Tim Black putting in some good vocal performances. I feel "Angel of Death" will have Belgian and Dutch metal fans clamouring for the next



demo from this mob.

CRYSYS fans and anybody else brave enough to try (only joking - "Angel Of Death" and "Terror" ARE definatly worth the effort) can get the demo by sending 2 dollars to POSSESSOR, 19506 63RD PL. N.E., SEATTLE, Washington 98115, USA.

On an end note, given the ages of the group they could turn out something very good in the future. Watch for the name OK? Meanwhile... more Seattle HM features soonest. DAVE REYNOLDS

## OMEGA

A blog that suggests OMEGA are "GENESIS meets IRON MAIDEN". What are we here at MF supposed to make of that? Well having seen the band on a couple of occasions I can vouch for the fact that OMEGA are a slick and professional HM outfit with strong progressive overtones. Not anything like MARILLION, TWELVE NIGHT or their ilk, but very akin to an early version of MAGNUM for example.

The demo tape thrust at me by drummer Graham Roberts does not do the band justice by any means, but is still pretty good in general terms. Except on the third track "Abandon Hope" though it fails to capture the power the band have live. Although the closer "The Child" could with proper production become a semi-classic.

Of the other three tracks "Heat Of The Night" is a good slower tempo number although quite raw. "Blood Sacrifice" is a newer number and is probably as close to GENESIS as this band is likely to get although it contains quite a catchy riff.

The opening track on the tape, a cover of "Summertime" is a big let-down however, and would probably put most people off this band for good - too appalling for words me-thinks. Still overall the cassette entitled "Alpha" is good and I can't wait for their debut LP release in late summer '84.

Contact:- OMEGA, 27 Old Park Ridings, London N21 2EX, ENGLAND.

DAVE CONSTABLE

## TORMENTOR

Although the metal scene is still relatively small in Denmark it has already seen the likes of PRETTY MAIDS, MERCYFUL FATE and more recently MALTESE FALCON making their mark on the rest of the metal world. Now hoping to join these are TORMENTOR from Copenhagen, the countries only 3-piece metal band.

Formed in 1983 the band, consisting of Michael Wenzel (guitar/vocals), Niels Rasmussen(bass) and Ole Petersen (drums), should not be confused with the Belgian band with the same name, who have just released an album on Mausoleum.



At present TORMENTOR's material lacks any originality with songs like "Revenge", "The Devil", "Winternights" and "Rape" all being built around a rather monotonous riff. Also Michael Wenzel's vocals are very weak, and the addition of a frontman may not be a bad move. TORMENTOR's members are still very young so obviously there's plenty of room for improvements, and they are certainly going to need a lot more stronger material if they are aiming to join the other bands currently leading the Danish Metal Invasion.

TORMENTOR c/o Michael Wenzel, Østerbrogade 151 3 sal, 2100 Ø Copenhagen, DENMARK.

KEN ANTHONY AND BERNARD DOE

## CRIMSON TYGER

CRIMSON TYGER hail from Whitby in Canada and are a straight ahead Metal band. Trouble is, Canada has a habit of only producing class "false metal" bands such as LOVERBOY, LEE AARON or GODDO. EXCITER are the only one's who deliver the goods in a truly heavy mould. Then again they're naff live, which is where ANVIL take over.

(ANVIL being none too brilliant on record, but are where it's all at live for a taste of Canadian metal).

As far as CRIMSON TYGER's



demo goes it's the below-average area they're dwelling in at present. Poor songs and poor production marring a suprisingly European metal

sound. I don't feel they'll get anywhere judging by material such as the Q107 plugged "Tokyo Knights" or the redundant "Stormtroopers". Then again someone said the same of THE BEATLES and look where they ended up.

C.T. are a three-piece comprising of Marc Battle (guitars/lead vocals), Derek Ray (bass) and Terry Joseph (drums), some guys who have to have a serious rethink if they intend going any further. This TYGER lacks bite. DAVE REYNOLDS

## ATTACKER

Do these guys know how to play my kind of METAL or what? This is excellent I love it! I'm talking about a three track demo submitted to METAL FORCES by Hoboken, New Jersey based ATTACKER. Until quite recently they were known as WARLOC before changing their name to the more apt current moniker, obviously upon hearing of that ace German outfit of "Burning The Witches" fame. (Yes Bernard, I do like Dorothee!!!)

The band was founded by guitarist Pat Marinelli and drummer Mike Sabatini at the start of 1983 with the line-up being completed a few months later following the recruitment of Bob Mitchell (vocals), John Joseph (bass) and Jim Mooney (guitar).

They've been playing live since June '83 combining a variety of cover songs with their own material. As with most up-and-coming US HM groups they have to play covers to survive the club circuits. TWISTED SISTER for example, built a solid reputation on playing covers, but whereas SISTER play them infinitely better than their own material, ATTACKER holds its own and I shouldn't think it will be long before they dispense with covers altogether.

The demo is an absolute killer, none of your Los Angeles RATT style wimp here, ATTACKER go for the throat. The power created by these boys is just so intense!

Vocalist Bob Mitchell is a real find and he's definitely in contention for my vote as best HM singer of this year with a voice that combines the very best elements of RIOT's Rhett Forester, Geddy Lee, Rob Halford and OVERLORD's Steve Van Liew.



Guitarist's Mooney and Marinelli are to ATTACKER what Downing and Tipton are to JUDAS PRIEST with their very Euro-sounding twin axe-attack whilst the rhythm section of Joseph and Sledgehammer Sabatini (Mein Gott! What a drum sound!) create one helluva noise - one helluva band - one helluva demo!

All I can say after continued bouts of "(Call on) The Attacker", "Slayers Blade" and "Disciple" is SOMEBODY SIGN 'EM UP QUICK! Get the message? I want to hear more!!

A two track demo along with more info can be yours for £1.50 (if in US) or \$2.00 (in Europe) - US currency only please - from:- ATTACKER, c/o Michael Sabatini, 96 Charles Street, Jersey City, NJ 07307, USA. Don't hesitate.

DAVE REYNOLDS

## SAMAIN

"Won't be explained or wrapped up into grand speeches, SAMAIN, is a band who wants to convince on stage for that purpose you have to see them alive" so their biog goes, but judging by the demo that won't be for a good while yet. I'm not saying it's bad, but just needs a lot of work done to it.

The tape comes without track listings so I can't pinpoint particular songs, but what I can say is that they are all very similar in the way they are all semi-anthems similar to the TWISTED SISTER epics we've come to know and love, you know, the ones you sing on football terraces.



The line-up of Peter Ancaster-vocals, Ralph Veetz-guitar, Bernard Eaus-bass, Fred Haig-guitar and Mark Newman-drums, is a steady one but it is still lacking that certain something to bring them up to an acceptable standard, at a time when there are so many bands trying to fill an ever decreasing market. Just being good to average just isn't acceptable though a few groups do manage to get through (ROCK GODDESS, SHE etc.)

They say they are straight high energy power, which is relatively true, though they remind me a lot of BODINE. They have supported TRANCE recently and have picked up fans from that, so we may get to see them 'Alive' in the future.

Contact:- Rogg Serve/SAMAIN, c/o Peter Vorwerk, Prostenhof 3, 5800 Hagen 5, GERMANY.

STEVE HAMMONDS

## VICIOUS RUMOURS

Many of you ardent metal fans out there will already be familiar with VICIOUS RUMOURS from their track "Ultimate Death" that appeared on Shrapnel's "US Metal Vol.3" compilation last year.

The Santa Rosa based band have recently recruited lead vocalist Gary St.Pierre (ex-HAWAII) to their ranks. I was never impressed with St.Pierre's vocals in HAWAII, however here he seems much more at home with his vocal style suiting the RUMOURS particular form of mayhem far better, especially on the excellent power metal frenzy of "In Fire".

"In Fire" along with the demo's other cut, "One Way Ticket" will be featured on the band's debut album "Blitz The World". They will also



be featured on the "US Metal Vol.4" compilation album.

VICIOUS RUMOURS full line-up is Gary St.Pierre-lead vocals, Geoff Thorpe-guitar/backing vocals, Chuck Mooney-guitar, Jeff Barnacle-bass/backing vocals and Don Selzer-drums. For more info contact: VICIOUS RUMOURS c/o Reatha Mayette, 5730 Cuneo Ct., Santa Rosa, California 95401. USA.

BERNARD DOE

ANY BANDS WISHING TO BE INCLUDED IN DEMOLITION SHOULD SEND TAPE, PHOTO AND FULL BAND BIOGRAPHY TO:- METAL FORCES - DEMOLITION, 17 LIVINGSTONE LINK, CHELSEA, STEVENAGE, HERTS., SG2 0EP, ENGLAND. ALSO IF DEMO IS AVAILABLE COMMERCIALY, PLEASE GIVE RELEVANT DETAILS.



# PEEBANGERS

METAL FORCES-17 Livingstone Link • Chells • Stevenage • Herts SG2 0EP

MALE into Saxon, Iron Maiden, Pretty Maids etc., wants pen-pals. Write to David Allan Kemp, 123 Old Oak Common Lane, East Acton, London W3 7DN ENGLAND.

HEAVY Metal Maniac into Accept, Jaguar, Twisted Sister, Queensrÿche, Talas and other metallic mayhem. Steve Kammerer, 3511 Swan Trail, Rockford, IL 61103, USA.

ANIMALISTIC Bassist seeks pen-pals. I'm into Manowar, Twisted Sister, Hendrix, Maiden and guns, girls and weight-lifting. No wimps! No false metal! Only overkill types need write. Paul Di Tommaso, The Duke Street Kings Post Office, Box 80403, Atlanta, GA 30366-0403 USA.

MALE 2s, wants to hear from Metal Queens in USA and England. I'm planning a trip to England and USA in August. I'm into Queensrÿche, Ratt, Les Aaron, Rods, etc you Metal Angels please write to: Perry Sangren, Producentgatan 11, 21482 Malmö, SWEDEN.

HEADBANGING SMF from USA looking for contacts worldwide to trade demos, live tapes, info, T-Shirts, fannzines, videos etc. Current faves include: Slayer, Hawaii, Fates, Exciter, Venom, Tank, Axxis, Savage, Grace, Grim Reaper, Jag Panzer, Savage, Cities and lots more. Ken Kriete, 1043 84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11228, USA.

FEMALE Headbanger, SMF would like to correspond and/or trade demos and live albums with people from all over the Earth. I'm into metal. Maiden, Crue, Manowar, Twisted Sister, Fate, Anthrax etc. Write to: Michelle Alberico, 14 Robbie Circle, Milford, CT 06460, USA.

22-YEAR-OLD guy wants to hear from Metal Madams everywhere. Also anyone who wants to trade demo and live tapes(except Britain), into Queensrÿche, Alice, Manowar, Venom, S.Sister, M.Crue, Acid or anything fast, furious and heavy. Write to: Steve, 25 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, ENGLAND.

I'm a 20-year-old Metal Maniac who wants people from all over the world to trade tapes with. I have a reasonable collection. I'm really into Exciter, Fate, Metallica, Manowar, Accept, Slayer, Anthrax, Venom, Priest, Anvil etc. etc. Please write to: Bluey, 6 Lynton Road, Peterborough, PE1 3DU, ENGLAND.

17-YEAR-OLD Metal Maniac wants to hear from anyone into, Dio, Venom, Fate, Metallica, Samson, Twisted, UFO, Tase, Schenker, U2, Rott and amazing guitar work. To trade tapes, videos or just to write to. I like girls in tight leather and loud metal. "If it's too loud your too old, get out because you've been too old". Mike God Of Heavy Metal, Pasture Lane, Old Bethpage, NY 11804, USA.

I'M total metal and I would like to hear from headbangers all around the world to trade tapes, photos, metal info etc as well as correspondence. I'm into Steel Assassin the metal band of the 80's. My other likes are Anthrax, Fate, Venom, Accept, Metallica, Exciter. There's just too many to list. Write to: Christopher Nordon, 90 Champs Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886, USA.

I AM A Heavy Metal Maniac into total metal. I am looking for anyone who has a Rising Force demo tape or a Silver Mountain (with Yagwe) demo tape. I would like to buy it or trade it. Also anyone that has live tapes of Manowar, Exciter, Metallica, Anthrax, Anvil. Fate and any other power metal bands. Also anyone with underground metal demos(Metallica's "No Life 'til Leather" or any other headbanging demo) I will buy or trade. Write to: Matt Lane, Pamela Lane, El Cajon, CA 92020 USA.

ABOUT 800 RM live tapes and demos for trade and sale. Have live tapes by Slayer, Exciter, W.A.S.P., Wild Dog, Venom, Helstar and a hell of a lot more great tapes. I'm looking for RM videos! Write to: Felix Lethanpe, PO Box 1721, 4450 Lingen, W.GERMANY.

I'M 16, male and interested in corresponding with metalers from all over, male or female. If you share an interest in Maiden, Priest, Saxon, Metallica or any other good metal bands then write to me. I'm also interested in trading metal pictures. Larry Weintraub, 2920 11th St #1 Santa Monica, CA 90405 USA.

WANTED-Anything(esp.live tapes) or World's finest Rock Diamond. Your price paid or do all you yanks only care for Metallica? John Watson, The Grove, Durham School, Durham, DH1 3SZ, ENGLAND

HARDCORE Metal Fanatic seeks to trade demos, live tapes, albums etc. I'm into Fate, Hellhammer, Death Dealer, Abattoir, Cities etc. Anyone interested in trading contact: Bruce Graham, 383 Redmar Blvd 53, Radcliff KT 40160, USA.

AUSTRALIAN Headbanger wants to write to other headbangers from every corner of the world. I wish to trade live tapes and demos. Favourite bands include Accept, Metallica, H-Bomb, Jaguar, Venom etc. Also any band that has demos please drop me a line if you wish to see a sample on Australia's only RH/RM show on SPES FM Melbourne Australia. Write to: Andreas Dumble, 36 Judith St., Bundoora, Victoria, 3083, AUSTRALIA.

GIRL (18) heavily into Kiss and all Glam Rock. Wants pen-pals, any age, everywhere, M/F, especially people in Glam bands. Write to: Allie Waters, Tootsie, 107 Claremont Ave., North Babylon, NY 11704, USA.

26-YEAR-OLD male headbanger with extensive RM collection from early '70's up to now, including demos, seeks to correspond with males/females from anywhere. Esp. those into Fate, Hawaii, Helstar, Sacred Blade, Metal Church, Exciter, Trouble etc. Also publishing fannzine. Ray Dorsey, 401 Walcott Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21206, USA.

I'M a 13-year-old metal maniac SMF from Chicago. I'm into Accept, Raven, Anvil, Metallica, Goetorpe, Trax, Iron Maiden, Manowar, Exciter and many more. I want to hear from people all over the world to trade demos, records, live tapes, news etc. Eric Reideberger, 2145 N. Lake-wood, Chicago, IL 60614, USA.

WE are two 17-year-old SMF's into TS, Raven, Accept, Venom, Fate, Wild Dogs, Metallica, Trust, Jaguar, and other small up-and-coming bands. We wish to hear mostly from headbangers in Europe, LA, NY and Japan. All letters answered. Steve Cameron and Dean Overton, 5340 SW Admiral Way, Seattle, WA 98116, USA.

FRENCH girl (17) into Pretty Maids and all heavy Metal/Hard Rock would like male pen-pals who if possible speak a little french. Laurence Lefebvre, 109 Rue Nationale, 93147 Gedeconcourt(Nord), FRANCE.

Hi I'm an 18-year-old female into Fate, Angelwitch, Accept, Anvil, Metallica, Loudness, TFS, Sortilege, Saxon etc... I'd especially like penbangers from England and other countries but the States are cool too: Cheeth, 206 Oakleigh Ave., Glen Burnie, MD 21061, USA. P.S. If you're into old stuff like Procol Harum, Humble Pie etc., write to Rick Davis at the same address!

SATANIC SALUTATIONS! I'm a black hearted hellrat into Venom, Hellhammer, Slayer, Metallica, Hawaii, Anthrax, The Beast, You get the picture. Would like to hear from other corpses of death metal no kinks i.e. No Vipers, Steels, Motley Crue Bullshit! David De Feis had the nerve to call Venom punk rock (over the phone) so Dave I just want you to know, if I ever see you I will kick your fucking balls up and down and stick that motherfuckin' sword up your ass "Fuck You" or better yet put you in a cage with Cronos. Belial, 601 White Oak #3, O'Fallon, Illinois 62269 USA.

HELLO! I'm an American metalhead who is bored as hell of US Radiol Those into Kiss, Crue, Rhoads, Black Sabbath, Priest, Q.Riot, Trouble, AC/DC etc. Willing to buy/trade bootleg live tapes/LP's of those listed above should write me at: Tom Hendrix, 1812 D Hood, Chicago, Illinois 60660 USA. P.S. I love live liioouuuuu!!!

20-YEAR-OLD guy from Paris into Spys, Strix, Foreigner, Wraith, Nightranger, Asia... and Def Leppard, Y&T, Triumph, Maiden, Ozzy, Judas... would be interested in exchanging records, posters, mags and live tapes. Send your list to: Damien Guss, 10/16 Rue De La Justice, 75020 Paris, FRANCE.

I'M a 24-year-old Canadian hardcore headbanger who's more faster, heavier, obscure bands all over the world. Into Metallica, Fate, Sacred Blade, Torch, H-Bomb, Killer (Belgium), Picture etc. Would like to correspond or trade demo, live tapes, also T-Shirts, posters, photos, patches and buttons with Metal Militia Whiplash Maniacs all over the four corners of the planet. Gerald/Sub-Machine Gun Toshida, Bat.Ste.362 Elath Ave., Vancouver, BC V8T 2M6, CANADA.

16-YEAR-OLD Headbanger from NJ would like to correspond with male/female bangers any age from anywhere. Fave groups: Slayer, Metallica, Venom, Fate, Sacred Blade, Exodus, Exciter, H-Bomb, Raven. Send photo if possible to: Matt De Venuto, 63 Jay Drive, Paramus, NY 07652, USA.

I'M a 26-year-old intense rocker who hopes to find someone with similar tastes to exchange records, tapes and old hard metal and synthetic music. My metal interests fall in the line of Priest, Bodine, Warning(Fr), Baron Rojo, Anvil, Black Alice and Savage. My synthetic interests are Hawkwind, Tangerine Dream, Warning(Ger), Klaus Schulze and Chrome. If you have any information of groups that sound as good as these, then we have a lot to talk about! Write to: Chris Cooper, 120 Smith Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525, USA.

15-YEAR-OLD Metal Lunatic wants to get in touch with other Heavy Metal Maniacs all over the world. I'm into Anthrax, Savage Grace, Slayer, Exciter, Metallica, Abattoir, Thrust, Armored Saint, Helstar, Queensrÿche, Rods, Satan, Pretty Maids and the Crue. This is only a small part of the list. I'm starting a magazine with a friend called HEAVY METAL UNSLAUGHT. First issue will have wild dogs, Savage Grace, Armored Saint, Future Tense, Hades and many more. Write to: Heavy Metal Unslaught, c/o John Feters, 55 28th Avenue, San Mateo, California 94403, USA.

Live concert and demo tapes sought by RM/RH collectors for trade. Wants are Anvil, Trust, T.Sister, Maiden, Ozzy, Priest, Vandenberg, Talas, Y&T, April Wine etc... Your list gets mine. Thomas Lussman, 23 Safari St., Scarborough, Ontario, M1K 3N1, CANADA.



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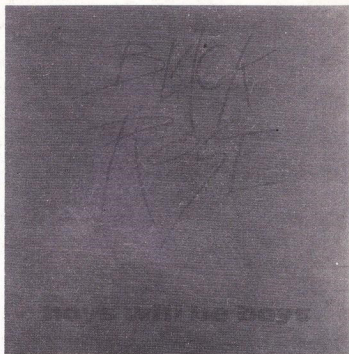


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